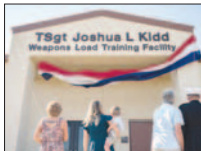


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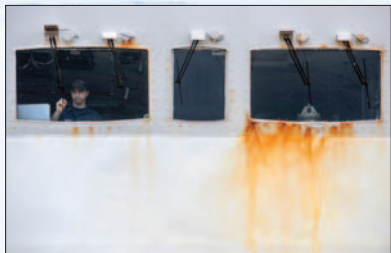
# STARS AND STRIPES®

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**BRIAN VAN DER BRUG**/Los Angeles Times (above) ; **NICK AKEEN**/U.S. Coast Guard (right)  
**Rust stains the Polar Star's bridge, where Lt. Sam Krakower, the ship's assistant operations officer, writes traffic updates on the windshield glass of the cargo vessel.**



## STAYING AFLOAT

How resourceful crewmembers keep Polar Star, the Coast Guard's dilapidated 43-year-old icebreaker, mission-ready

**By RICHARD READ**  
 Los Angeles Times

**T**he icebreaker Polar Star was 1,000 miles out of its homeport of Seattle last December, three days into its yearly voyage to resupply scientific bases in Antarctica, when a powerful swell hit its bow and flooded the deck.

The ship shuddered. The roar of the ventilators in the galley quit as Joseph Sellar, a 25-year-old Coast Guard culinary specialist from New Hampshire, watched seawater explode from the ceiling.

He lunged toward a switch to close the overhead

vents. With a loud pop, an outlet ejected a spark. "Are we sinking?" asked a petty officer on temp duty from Virginia. Sellar knew better. "Calm down," he said, whipping out his cellphone to record the gusher.

The U.S. spends \$2 billion a day on the most advanced military ever assembled, with more aircraft carriers, fighter planes and nuclear submarines than any other nation. The Pentagon intends to develop a space fleet of orbiting lasers, missile sensors and satellites.

Then there is the Polar Star.

**SEE ICEBREAKER ON PAGE 4**

## 'We are dropping like flies': Ex-fighter pilots push for earlier cancer screenings

**By TARA COPP**

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Former Air Force and Navy fighter pilots are calling on the military to begin cancer screenings for aviators as young as 30 because of an increase in deaths from the disease that they suspect may be tied to radiation emitted in the cockpit.

"We are dropping like flies in our 50s

from aggressive cancers," said retired Air Force Col. Eric Nelson, a former F-15E Strike Eagle weapons officer. He cited prostate and esophageal cancers, lymphoma and glioblastomas that have struck fellow pilots he knew, commanded or flew with.

Nelson's prostate cancer was first detected at age 48, just three months after he retired from the Air Force. In his career he has more than 2,600 flying hours,

including commanding the 455th Air Expeditionary Group in Bagram, Afghanistan, and as commander of six squadrons of F-15E fighter jets at the 4th Operations Group at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in North Carolina.

Last month McClatchy reported on a new Air Force study that reviewed the risk for prostate cancers among its fighter pilots and new Veterans Health Administration data showing that the rate of reported

cases of prostate cancers per year among veterans using the VA health care system across all services has risen almost 16% since fiscal year 2000.

The Air Force study also looked at cockpit exposure, finding that "pilots have greater environmental exposure to ultraviolet and ionizing radiation ... (fighter pilots) have unique intra-cockpit exposures to non-ionizing radiation."

**SEE PILOTS ON PAGE 3**

# MILITARY

## US, Malaysia wrap up joint training

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy finished five days of training with its Malaysian counterparts on Sunday, the 25th year of a regular exercise and the first year the U.S. Coast Guard has taken part.

Maritime Training Activity Malaysia 2019 closed with a ceremony at the Royal Malaysian Naval Base at Lumut on the Strait of Malacca, the Navy said in a news release.

The exercise involved drills to improve maritime security and law enforcement skills and included training in counterpiracy, counternarcotics, port security and maritime interceptions. More than 300 sailors and Coast Guardsmen from both countries took part, according to the Navy.

The Coast Guard contingent trained with its counterparts from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

The Strait of Malacca is an important commercial waterway that links the Bay of Bengal and the South China Sea. The United States has worked with friendly nations and allies in the area, from Sri Lanka to Indonesia and Australia, to improve "interoperability," the ability to work together in the event of a crisis, as well as tend to friendly relationships.

The U.S. Coast Guard commandant, Adm. Karl Schultz, in July told reporters that Malaysia is among several countries in the Indo-Pacific region whose coast guard the United States has helped train. At the time, Schultz said partnering with western Pacific island nations will help the United States counter assertive action by China to expand its sphere of influence.

"We are collaborating, working very diligently with the Vietnamese," the admiral said at the time. "We've worked with the Malaysians, the Indonesians, helping them build out their capacity, with the Philippines, as I've mentioned."

During the Malaysian exercise last week, the two nations held naval exercises at sea, including tactical drills, replenishment at sea and visit, board, search and seizure drills.

The expeditionary fast transport USNS Millinocket and the replenishment oiler USNS Rappah



PHOTOS BY TRISTIN BARTN/U.S. Navy

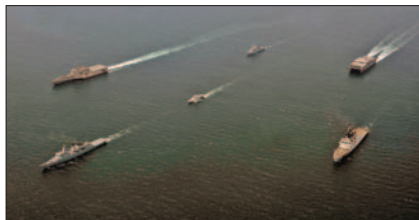
The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Stratton prepares to moor near the USS Montgomery at Lumut Naval Base, Malaysia, on Aug. 13 as part of Maritime Training Activity Malaysia 2019.

annock practiced with a frigate and corvette from the Malaysian navy and a vessel from the Malaysian coast guard, according to the Navy.

U.S. and Malaysian helicopter pilots practiced deck landings in the Navy's MH-60S Seahawk, the Coast Guard's MH-65 Dolphin and the Royal Malaysian Navy's Super Lynx.

Onshore portions of the exercise included classroom sessions on damage control, military operations and law, military medicine and aviation maintenance. Sailors from Task Force 73, Destroyer Squadron 7, the littoral combat ship USS Montgomery, the Coast Guard cutter Stratton and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 took part, according to the Navy. All the vessels and units are part of the U.S. 7th Fleet, which is headquartered at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

"For 25 years, we have worked



Ships of the U.S. Navy, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Royal Malaysian Navy sail together Friday during the exercise.

together with our partners from the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces, and we share a comprehensive partnership built on trust and a continued commitment to train and engage in various maritime situations," Capt. Matthew Jerbi, commodore of Destroyer Squadron 7, said in a statement.

"This speaks to the importance that both our navies and coast guards place on the sustained operability, and we look forward to working with our partners at every opportunity."

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### Corrections

■ An Aug. 17 story about the Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands program should have said that Air Force Lt. Col. Frank D. Bryant Jr. died in 2011.

■ An Aug. 15 story should have said that the Air Force has installed new wings on 173 of its 281 A-10 aircraft; the service is looking for a contract to replace wings on the remainder.

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## MILITARY

# USAF base dedicates facility to slain airmen

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

A building at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., now bears the name of a former Spangdahlem airman who was murdered last year outside his Louisiana home, one of five Barksdale airmen and civilians to be killed in the last 14 months.

Tech. Sgt. Joshua Kidd's family, including his wife and young son, unveiled the new name — "Tsgt Joshua L. Kidd Weapons Load Training Facility" — at a dedication ceremony last week, the Air Force said in a statement.

Kidd was killed by a gunshot to the chest on the morning of Sept. 25, 2018, after he interrupted two youths who prosecutors say were trying to steal items from his car outside his Bossier City home.

Two Louisiana teenagers have been charged as adults in connection with his death.

"I would wish more than anything that Josh could see this," the Air Force statement quoted his wife, Alyssa Kidd, as saying at the ceremony Friday. "There are no words to describe what it's like to see all of you come out and support Joshua. It's a true testament to how he impacted each and every one of us."

Final approval for dedicating the building in Kidd's name came from Gen. Timothy Ray, head of Air Force Global Strike Command, the service said.

Kidd was recognized during the ceremony for his "unwavering leadership and influential legacy," the Air Force said.



PHILIP BRYANT/U.S. Air Force

Alyssa Kidd and her son, Beckham, receive a replica of the plaque that will go onto the newly named "Tsgt Joshua L. Kidd Weapons Load Training Facility" from Col. Michael Colvard, 2nd Maintenance Group commander, at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., on Friday. Kidd was killed last fall in an attempted break-in of his vehicle outside his home in Bossier, La.

A GoFundMe campaign created last year, which raised nearly \$44,000 for Alyssa Kidd and the couple's young son, Beckham, said Kidd went out of his way to assist deployed airmen and their families and often mentored younger airmen.

Kidd enlisted in the Air Force in March 2008. Before his assignment to Barksdale, he was assigned to Osan Air Base, South Korea, and Spangdahlem Air

Base, Germany, where, from 2009 to 2012, he was a weapons load crew chief.

Kidd was one of five members of the Barksdale community to be murdered since June 2018, according to the Air Force.

The spate of murders prompted 2nd Bomb Wing commander Col. Michael A. Miller to issue a statement last month expressing concern about the safety of airmen and civilians assigned to the

wing, home to three squadrons of B-52H Stratofortress bombers.

"I've been stationed at eight installations in my 25-year Air Force career and I have never experienced as many murders involving" airmen and their families, Miller wrote in the statement, published by local news outlet BossierNow.

Besides Kidd, Tech. Sgt. Kelly Jose, a reservist and civilian employee for the 307th Logis-

tics Readiness Squadron, and his wife, Heather Jose, were killed in November after giving a man a ride while shopping at Mall St. Vincent, in neighboring Shreveport.

Their bodies were found in a parked car, burned beyond recognition. A suspect was arrested after a six-hour standoff with law enforcement, according to the Shreveport Times.

In June, postal worker Antonio Williams, the spouse of a civilian employee at Barksdale, was gunned down while delivering mail in Shreveport.

Also in June, Tech. Sgt. Perry Bailey, the noncommissioned officer in charge of education and training for the 2nd Medical Group, was slain in an apparent murder-suicide in a Shreveport residence, according to the Shreveport Times.

"I am deeply concerned for the safety of the military members and their families assigned to Barksdale Air Force Base," Miller said in the statement. "Not only am I concerned about their personal well-being, but also our ability to recruit and retain the necessary talent to complete our mission to defend our nation."

Local news radio station KEEL reported Miller sent an email to Shreveport provisional police Chief Ben Raymond, saying that the "overwhelming consensus" of most airmen assigned to Barksdale was that Shreveport and Bossier City "are not safe places to live."

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## Pilots: No link established between radiation from jet radars and illnesses

FROM FRONT PAGE

Retired Navy Cmdr. Mike Crosby served as a radar intercept officer in F-14 fighter jets from 1984 to 1997, accumulating more than 2,000 flight hours. He started Veterans Prostate Cancer Awareness Inc. in 2016 after his own prostate cancer diagnosis at age 55.

"I think there's been a lot of avoidance in addressing this issue," he said.

Crosby and other pilots who contacted McClatchy said they suspect the cancers in their community may be linked to prolonged exposure in the cockpit to radiation from the radar systems on their advanced jets, or other sources such as from cockpit oxygen generation systems.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that exposure to some types of radiation can cause cancer. However, to date there has been no link established between the specific radiation emitted from radars on the advanced jets and the illnesses pilots are now seeing. "When you're 30 years old you need to start screening for prostate cancer, even if it comes out of your own pocket," Nelson said. "You need to see a urologist once a year. Not your primary care physician, not your flight doc. Pay the money and stick around for your great-grandkids."

If the military would begin screening for cancer earlier, "that would save lives," Nelson said.

The military's health care system, Tri-

**"The kids that worked the flight line and the flight deck were exposed eight hours a day to that stuff."**

Retired Cmdr. Thomas Hill  
Navy

care, currently covers prostate cancer screenings at age 50 for servicemembers with no family history of the disease and as young as age 40 if there is a family history of the disease in two or more family members. The pilots who spoke with McClatchy said they did not have a family history of prostate cancer when they were diagnosed.

Retired Navy Cmdr. Thomas Hill was a career F-4 and F-14 pilot and squadron commanding officer with more than 3,600 flight hours and more than 960 aircraft carrier landings. Hill was 52 when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. In December 2011, at age 60, he learned he also had esophageal cancer.

Hill has spent the last two years tracking premature deaths or cancers among former commanding officers of F-14 squadrons. So far he's found more than a dozen who have either been diagnosed or have died from the disease.

"God, they're all my friends," he said. What has frustrated some pilots is that the government has looked into the connection between military service and can-

cer rates for years, but with mixed results.

For example, a 2009 peer-reviewed study published by the American Association for Cancer Research looked at cancer rates among servicemembers from 1990 to 2004 and reported in 2009 that "prostate cancer rates in the military were twice those in the general population, and breast cancer rates were 20% to 40% higher."

However, a 2011 study published in the peer-reviewed journal "Aviation, Space and Environmental Medicine" found no significant difference in prostate cancer rates between pilots and nonpilots in the military. It's the same conclusion that the Air Force study reached.

"The Air Force did not ask the right question," Hill said of the study, which like the 2011 aviation journal review compared cancer rates between pilots and nonpilots but largely did not look at what happened to the pilots' health after their military careers. The Air Force said its study was limited by lack of access to pilots' health records after they separated from the military.

"If they are really going to protect the

people who have gone out and served, they need to look at the guys' health 20 years after they have finished their military careers," Hill said.

His own informal review of fellow pilots showed a similar pattern. Cancers usually surfaced about 15 to 20 years after pilots left the military, which would not have been captured by the Air Force review.

Derek Kauffman, a spokesman for Air Force Materiel Command, said further studies are under consideration.

"We have presented potential options for a follow-up study to the Air Force Medical Readiness Agency," Kauffman said.

None of the pilots who spoke with McClatchy said a greater risk of cancer would have kept them from flying. They said the military should acknowledge the risk and put additional protections in place for the next generation of military aviators.

Hill said he's also worried about the enlisted crew who manned the flight decks of the aircraft carriers.

"The kids that worked the flight line and the flight deck were exposed eight hours a day to that stuff," Hill said.

For future protections for pilots, Crosby said it would be unlikely that the services would retrofit aircraft to add protections against the sources of cockpit radiation, which makes it difficult to isolate a world likely add unwanted weight or otherwise affect the performance of the aircraft.



## MILITARY

## Icebreaker: Crew works mightily to keep aging vessel afloat

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The only U.S. ship capable of bludgeoning through heavy ice, it is the neglected 43-year-old stepchild of the U.S. military industrial complex.

After decades of abuse, the vessel lists to port, but its sewer pipes drain to starboard, jamming and overflowing toilets. Rust coats decks, hatches and ladders. Lead paint peels from walls marked with warnings of asbestos.

While Russia will soon have more than 50 icebreakers, the fire engine-red ship lumbers on as a Cold War relic.

Crewmembers scour eBay for discontinued replacement parts. A petty officer who used a surfboard repair kit to fix a generator, saving the ship from encroaching ice, received an award from the Coast Guard commandant.

Each time the ship makes the 11,500-mile journey to Antarctica, it falls apart. Turbines quit. Seals rupture. Resistors fail. Then it limps home for months of repairs.

The torrent that inundated the galley Dec. 1 destroyed the top oven, subjecting the crew to cold cuts for a week while a \$50,000 replacement was flown to Honolulu, the ship's next port. Machinery that desalinates water also broke.

As problems went, these were not especially unusual for the Polar Star.

"She's an old beast, and you gotta know how to run her," Sellar said. "You can't just turn the key."

## Research in Antarctica

The sun rises in Antarctica each October and doesn't set again until February.

It's the austral summer, the season of science, when more than 1,000 researchers and support staff live at McMurdo Station — a jumble of dorms and dozens of other buildings located on the Ross Sea's Winter Quarters Bay — and the much smaller Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station 1,000 miles inland.

The population at the two U.S. bases shrinks to fewer than 200 during the southern winter when darkness sets in and polar temperatures can plunge lower than 100 degrees below zero.

But the research conducted in Antarctica can't be done anywhere else.

Scientists have drilled down more than 2 miles for ice cores that show how the climate has changed over thousands of years. Research on how emperor penguins endure extreme pressure during deep dives has led to improvements in anesthesia.

The frigid conditions, ideal for some of the world's most sophisticated telescopes, enabled astronomers worldwide to capture the first photograph of a black hole.

None of this would have been possible without the Polar Star.

It debuted in 1976 as one of the world's most powerful nonnuclear ships. Six diesel locomotive engines and three gas turbines generate 75,000 horsepower to

spin propellers as big around as grain silos.

Engineers at Lockheed Shipbuilding & Construction Co. shaped its hardened-steel hull 399 feet long and 83 feet wide — like a football, pointed at both stem and stern. With a draft as deep as an aircraft carrier, the Polar Star can rock, ram and reverse through ice up to 21 feet thick.

That's what it takes to reach McMurdo year after year, carving a path for a freighter loaded with everything the scientists need to survive.

Operation Deep Freeze, as the annual mission is known, has often been brutal, but never more so than in 2006, when massive icebergs clogged the Ross Sea, forcing the Polar Star to ram through a record 97 miles of ice.

The ship made it through just one more season before commanders moved to retire it.

They relied instead on its slightly younger sibling, the Polar Sea — an arrangement that lasted until 2011, when that ship suffered a catastrophic engine failure and the Coast Guard relegated it to a Seattle dock as a parts donor.

A \$62 million repair job resurrected the Polar Star, but the years sitting idle meant its machinery and wiring would never be the same.

Two days after the flood that destroyed the oven, engineers smelled smoke coming from an old Westinghouse electrical panel in the ship's main control room.

Peeling open the metal cabinet, they found the culprit: a burned-out coil the size of a coffee can. Without it, the port propeller was useless.

A backup was nowhere to be found in the ship's parts shop, which stores 5,000 replacements for items judged most likely to fail. So electricians back in Seattle extracted the identical coil from the Polar Sea and sent it by air to Honolulu.

## Oh, the indignities

The Polar Star chugged into Pearl Harbor, using a gas-guzzling turbine usually reserved for ice-breaking. The next day, the ship suffered yet another indignity: Its whistle stuck. For two minutes, the foghorn echoed across Pearl Harbor.

The Polar Star spent six days in port before embarking again on Dec. 10, its port propeller and desalinization machinery working. Crewmembers were relieved. But the next day, the desalinization unit quit again, forcing the crew to split laundry and limit showers to two minutes.

Still, the ship lumbered across the equator at a steady 18 mph. Capt. Tregien's crew remained upbeat at briefings as he addressed crewmembers lined up on the rear deck, swaying in unison against the waves.

On Dec. 22, Standick made a much-anticipated "swim call," halting the ship so sailors could plunge into the azure sea 260 miles west of New Caledonia.

But that evening, he delivered



PHOTOS BY BRIAN VAN DER BRUG, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

The 399-foot U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Polar Star is docked at Mare Island Dry Dock in Vallejo, Calif., on April 23, where the heavy ship from Seattle will undergo repairs and refurbishment.



The crew of the Polar Star retrieves water and sewer lines to stow below decks after a crane malfunctioned, forcing the crew to move the massive hoses by hand in Seattle on April 18.

more bad news: Their paychecks were about to stop.

President Donald Trump had hit an impasse with Congress over funding for his wall along the border with Mexico, shutting down much of the federal government.

With internet service often down, officers authorized extra satellite phone time. Christmas greetings over scratchy connections gave way to anxious talk with faraway family members of rent bills and loan payments.

If there was any solace, it was the next port. On New Year's, crewmembers joined more than a million spectators awed by fireworks that showered Australia's Sydney Harbor with gold, purple and silver.

The next stage of the voyage — through the Southern Ocean — proved especially rough as massive waves battered the ship.

Crewmembers rolled from bunks. Dinner plates sailed off tables, slamming against walls.

But at least the ship was mov-

ing. On Jan. 9, it reached the ice edge at McMurdo Sound. The vessel that had loomed large by Seattle's Space Needle seemed to shrink like a toy boat against the glaring expanse of white.

Seventeen miles of ice, 6 feet to 10 feet thick, stood between the ship and McMurdo Station.

## Through frozen sea

A compartment resembling a crane cab, perched atop the ship 155 feet above the ice, shook violently as Lt. Cmdr. Karen Kulkiewicz gripped engine control levers. At 5-feet-5, she stood on her tiptoes on a wooden box.

The rattling of window frames and ceiling tiles competed with the Christian rock playing from her smartphone. Kulkiewicz, 35, wore dark glasses against the fireball of sun that circled the ship every 24 hours.

Slowly, she backed the Polar Star a half-ship's length. Then firmly, she pushed the throttles from half-speed to full.

The ship's bulbous prow thrust upward, riding a ledge, penguins scattering in its path. Then it crashed through the ice sheet. Glistening, boulder-sized shards broke off, bobbing toward the stern. On the dashboard, an indicator light flashed red. A black wall phone jangled. "You're overloading the port shaft," said a voice from main control, deep below decks.

It was a refrain familiar to Kulkiewicz and the other four ice pilots who rotated in three-hour shifts around the clock.

The ship was now a 13,500-ton jackhammer.

Four days and 4 miles into the ice, the Polar Star sprang a leak. Seawater sprayed through a cramped fitting into a cramped compartment that houses the shaft turning the main propeller, which drives water past the rudder.

Without a speedy fix to regain steerage, the Polar Star would face a nightmare scenario: getting stuck in ice as the ocean froze around it. With no other heavy icebreakers in its fleet, the U.S. would have little choice but to rely on foreign help for a rescue.

Crewmembers figured that if anyone could plug the hole, it would be chief engineer Brad Jopling, the son of a Montana heavy-equipment mechanic. Jopling, 40, never complained about being woken at odd hours by mechanics presenting handfuls of broken parts.

A portable pump slowed the water's rise while he and his team devised a plan.

Two Navy divers suited up. Laden with ropes, rubber mats and heavy plastic wrap, they were about to descend 30 feet to Polar Star's idled propellers when a watch officer noticed a different threat: a pod of killer whales.

SEE ICEBREAKER ON PAGE 5



## MILITARY



Left: Engineer Michael Malanga peers inside one of the massive diesel engines aboard the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Polar Star on April 21 while the heavy icebreaker is underway from Seattle to Mare Island Dry Dock in Vallejo, Calif. Right: Assistant Operations Officer Sam Krakower writes operational notes on the windshield glass of the Polar Star during the trip from Seattle.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN VAN DER BRUG, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

## Icebreaker: Coast Guard expects to keep vessel in service 7 more years

### FROM PAGE 4

Two hours later, the divers finally splashed into the water and bound the mats around the leaking propeller shaft where it protruded from the hull. The hope was that, wrapped in plastic, the mats would form enough of a seal to slow the flow.

On a second try, they managed to cut the stream to a trickle. The plan had worked.

Jopling and an assistant crawled back into the compartment, staying off the cold with jokes about working without pay. Crouching in water up to their necks, they used a wrench adapted in the ship's welding shop to remove and replace the fitting.

"If you don't mind, it's not matter," Jopling liked to say.

But he cared deeply for the ship and worked not just to fix it but to make it stronger.

"You bleed into it, and pour your heart and soul into it," he said. "All you got to do is get everyone home safe and make it better."

The leak and repair had halted the ship for more than 30 hours. Some crew members had seized the opportunity to take in the stark beauty of a continent that had no countries, currency, cities or hotels.

In his stateroom, Standick held the crumbling part between his thumb and forefinger. The brittle fitting, an inch and a quarter in diameter, had been mistakenly installed during a previous repair.

It was made of mild steel instead of corrosion-resistant copper-nickel.

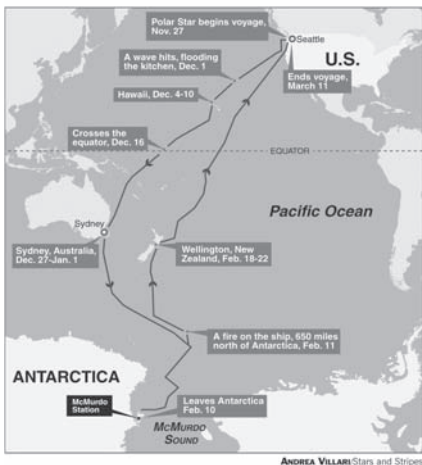
### Cause for alarm

The Polar Star suffered ship-wide power outages twice over the next 11 days. Steel bars meant to stabilize propeller shafts broke so many times that engineers ran out of the 8-inch bolts needed to repair them.

McMurdo sent four more bolts in a helicopter, which set down on the ice because the ship's flight deck was no longer certified for landings. A crane lowered Jopling

## The Polar Star's voyage

The icebreaking ship traveled 11,500 miles from Seattle to McMurdo Station in Antarctica.



in a "man basket" to walk out and retrieve them.

On Jan. 24, the Polar Star finally docked at McMurdo. That night, in light of the Coast Guard's continued lack of pay, scientists passed the hat for a \$1,500 bar tab at the station's three watering holes.

It was good timing. The federal shutdown ended the next day.

The ship spent two weeks at the base, not counting a jaunt back through the channel to the outer edge of the ice to meet the Ocean Giant. The freighter, loaded with 400 cargo containers, followed just 500 feet behind the icebreaker to prevent the space between them from freezing over.

At the dock, workers unloaded

containers stowed with 52,000 chicken breasts, ground beef for 33,000 hamburgers, dough for 123,000 cookies, 18 concrete foundation footers, a tractor-trailer and a construction elevator.

The day before the Polar Star departed McMurdo, Standick let crewmembers walk out on the ice sheet for a few hours. Some played touch football. One group admired seals and an emperor penguin. Kutkiewicz broke out her cross-country skis.

But the sense of peace was short-lived. On Feb. 11, one day into the trip home, another fire broke out. Then another.

Courtney Will, a damage control petty officer, was working in the ship's coffee shop two levels

below the main deck when she heard a boom.

"Well, that didn't sound right," she said to a co-worker.

Six hundred and fifty miles north of Antarctica, sirens blared. On more modern ships, crewmembers can remotely activate sprinkler systems or chemical retardants. Not on the Polar Star.

Will, 25, darted into the ship's damage-control locker and pulled on a bulky firefighting suit, mask, helmet, boots and an air tank.

She grabbed a thermal imaging sensor and led two other firefighters up two flights of steep stairs. They shoved open a door. The ship's incinerator was ablaze.

Will elbowed her nozzle man forward. The first blast of water from the hose hit hot metal, unleashing a wall of steam as flames darted toward the ceiling.

Will called for more water. She had to prevent flames from exploding a sludge tank across the room. But she knew that flooding the oil-streaked floor would create more hazards.

"Short bursts!" she yelled. A shot of purple fire retardant cut through the steam. Another team took a turn. Two hours later, the fire was out.

### As for the future

The Polar Star pulled into port in Seattle on March 11.

Four days later, the Coast Guard announced that a Mississippi company would build a new heavy icebreaker by 2024 for \$746 million.

It was a major triumph for a

branch of the military long neglected by Congress.

Even so, Coast Guard commanders and allies in Congress say the U.S. will need more icebreakers as climate change reshapes the polar regions. Enough ice has melted to open Arctic shipping lanes — at least seasonally — as well as areas that hold rare-earth metals and perhaps a quarter of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas.

Coast Guard officials say more ships in the Arctic mean more potential accidents and rescues, more smuggling to interdict, more terrorists to stop and greater need to assert U.S. sovereignty in the nation's economic zones extending 230 miles from shore.

They expect the Polar Star to remain in service at least seven more years to accompany the new vessel to Antarctica for two seasons as a backup.

That would make it a half-century old.

And so, in April the ship traveled from Seattle to the California port of Vallejo, where tugboats nudged it into a ship and onto blocks. Muddy water drained from around the scarred hull.

Workers swarmed the ship like a pit crew at Indianapolis. They would strip down and rebuild engines and turbines. They'd patch up the desalination units yet again. They'd place the three 85,000-pound propellers on wide-load trucks to haul them 600 miles to Oregon for reconditioning.

They had five months to overhaul the Polar Star for next season.

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## MILITARY

# African militaries work on valuing NCOs as US does

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — High-ranking enlisted troops in Africa aren't always proud of their rank, one senior noncommissioned officer confessed to a room full of his peers from nearly 30 African countries and the U.S., who had gathered in this Bavarian resort town.

"It's hard to keep motivation up," the man said during a panel discussion about NCO empowerment here last week. But, he added, "I'm proud to be here."

The senior enlisted leader's identity was withheld so he could speak freely during a portion of the third annual African senior enlisted leader conference Stars and Stripes attended. Organized by and for NCOs, the event sought to advance a U.S. Africa Command-backed strategy to bolster enlisted ranks — the military's "backbone" — throughout the continent.

Designed to be African-led, the plan is aligned with the African Union's "Agenda 2063," which outlines aspirations for a continent-wide "renaissance," including goals for good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and more, AFRICOM officials said.

Strengthening military professionalism across Africa can help stabilize the region and contain violent extremism, they said.

The idea is to "work ourselves out of a job," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeremiah Inman, U.S. Army Africa's top enlisted soldier, and to reduce the likelihood of deploying U.S. combat troops to the region.

The U.S. mission in Africa has gained wider attention since an October 2017 ambush in Niger

that left four American soldiers dead and two wounded following a failed mission to kill or capture a regional Islamic State leader.

Since then, AFRICOM has announced plans to cut about 10% of the roughly 7,000 U.S. troops deployed to the continent — mainly special operations troops — as it shifts focus from tactical assistance to advice, training and intelligence support.

But the unnamed African NCO's comments, and those of others at the conference last week, illustrate the challenges officials face in some African militaries, where senior enlisted ranks don't have the same status as in the U.S. military.

Officers are sometimes wary of them and opportunities for professional development are rare, officials said.

Another African senior NCO, one of more than 60 in attendance, said the event was the first conference he'd ever attended for enlisted leaders in more than 30 years of service.

Ghana's defense chief, Lt. Gen. Obed Aikwa, told Stars and Stripes it was the first time he'd had such frank interactions with enlisted personnel. Ghana was one of four African countries, along with Malawi, Botswana and Liberia, that sent senior generals and senior enlisted advisers to speak on panels.

All four had been selected last year as the first tranche of countries implementing the U.S.-backed plan — which focuses on Africa's training Africans — to create regional training hubs over three years to hone enlisted leaders' skills and improve regional cooperation.

The discussion of other plans meant to reshape their military cultures, such as enacting mini-

mal education requirements for enlisted troops and training them in skills besides "the way of the gun," such as automotive repair and other trades they can take into the civilian world after service.

This week, in partnership with AFRICOM, Ghana is hosting representatives of the African Union and other organizations from across Africa, Europe, South America and the U.S. for a leadership symposium that will focus on training and workforce development, including enlisted development.

The U.S. is assisting the four-country group with trainers, curriculum development and other aid, but each country is defining its own approach, officials said.

"Anything ... that will be good for our people will be taken on board," said Chief Warrant Officer Barker Kwame Ramon, Ghana's forces sergeant major.

Malawi's military in 2014 was inspired by the Army's Sergeants Major Academy to establish an academy of its own. With U.S. help, the school now has several instructors teaching NCOs from a dozen African countries, said Warrant Officer George Bisalumu, the country's senior enlisted leader.

In a keynote address, the Pentagon's top enlisted soldier touted the importance of enlisted pro-



CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

From left, Gen. Vincent Thom Nundew, of Malawi; Lt. Gen. Obed Aikwa, of Ghana; and Maj. Gen. Prince Charles Johnson III, of Liberia, take part in a panel discussion on empowering noncommissioned officers in Garmisch, Germany, last week.

feSSIONALIZATION through training, education and other experiences, which lets commanders entrust NCOs with greater responsibilities, decentralizing command and giving them reach across the battlefield.

The U.S. military's approach to empowering its people is its greatest competitive edge, Command Sgt. Maj. John W. Troxell said, and the Pentagon seeks to export such advantages to its allies and partners. In Africa, the U.S. is trying to win more partners as it competes with China and Russia for influence.

But Troxell and other officials also urged patience, stressing that the Defense Department's efforts have spanned decades since the 1970s.

"This is a culmination of almost 40 years," Troxell said. Still, small changes could go a long way to sending the message that NCOs are valued, officials said.

Maj. Gen. Mpho Mophuting, a high-ranking member of Botswana's military, planned to invite senior enlisted leaders on his next annual tour of his country's military bases, he said, something he'd previously done only with staff officers.

"I think we can do better," Mophuting said.

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# Iran warns US not to target freed oil tanker

By BRIAN WINGFIELD  
AND ARSALAN SHAHLA  
Bloomberg News

LONDON — Iran warned the U.S. against targeting a super-tanker carrying the Middle East country's oil as the vessel departed Gibraltar after being seized last month by U.K. forces and held in the British territory.

The tanker, detained by the British on suspicion of hauling oil to Syria in violation of European sanctions, set sail from Gibraltar after being released late last week and is signaling Greece as its next destination.

"The U.S. surely can't seize the Iranian tanker and, if it does, it would pose a threat to international maritime security," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said. Iran warned the U.S. via "diplomatic channels," including Switzerland, against interfering with the tanker, formerly known as Grace 1, in international waters, Mousavi said at a news conference in Tehran. Swiss diplomats serve as interlocutors between the U.S. and Iran.

The ship, renamed the Adrian Darya 1, changed its intended destination Monday to the Greek port of Kalamata from its previous indication of the Mediterranean Sea, according to vessel-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg and data from MarineTraffic.com.

Gibraltar rejected an attempt by the U.S. to block the ship's release Sunday. The territory's Supreme Court last week separately released the tanker over U.S. objections.

Kalamata is itself an unlikely final destination for the vessel. A port mainly serving pleasure craft like sailboats and cruise ships, Kalamata "can't handle vessels with drafts greater than 26 feet," Giannoula Nikolovou, the acting harbor master, said by phone. The tanker laden with Iranian oil has a maximum draft — a measurement of how low a vessel sits in the water when full — of about 72 feet, according to ship-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg.

The waters off Kalamata could be a possible location for ship-to-ship cargo transfers, according to two vessel brokers without specific information about the tanker's plans. Tanker crews enter destinations into ship logs that get picked up by vessel-tracking satellites. The destinations can be altered multiple times on the same journey.

The vessel's status was "under way using engine" with a speed of 7 knots as of 10:30 a.m. Monday in Dubai, according to ship-tracking data. The tanker has an estimated time of arrival at Kalamata of Aug. 25.

# Marine faces hearing over firearms allegations

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Marine stationed in Hawaii faces a military hearing this week after officials say he tried to enter an Air Force base while off-duty and heavily armed in his home state of Nebraska.

Pfc. Ali Al-Kazahy, 22, is in custody in Hawaii on allegations that he tried to enter Offutt Air Force Base with two semi-automatic rifles, a pistol, a silencer, a bump stock, a vest with body armor and a case of ammunition while on leave. His arrest came a week after he was listed on a law enforcement alert for making threats, The Omaha World-Her-

ald reported.

A preliminary military court hearing at Marine Corps Base Hawaii is scheduled for Wednesday. A hearings officer is expected to recommend whether charges including carrying a concealed weapon, possessing modified firearms, making threats against anyone in Nebraska, and "zero intentions" of hurting anyone and said he had most of his belongings, including his guns, in his truck because he'd been staying with friends.

Nedhal Al-Kazahy told The Associated Press from Lincoln, Neb., that her brother went to Offutt to work out at a gym there. She believes her brother, the son

of Iraqi refugees, was targeted because of his race. She said other Marines have called him Muslim, even though he's Christian, and thrown bacon on his bed.

The siblings' last names are spelled differently because of a birth certificate mix-up, she said.

The Marines Corps denied that the charges were racially motivated and said it doesn't tolerate racism or bullying.

"We expect all Marines to act in a professional manner to maintain an atmosphere of dignity and respect and ensure an environment free from discrimination, harassment and assault," Abrams

said.

Marine Capt. Eric Abrams said.

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Afghan leader vows to crush ISIS safe havens

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's president on Monday vowed to "eliminate" all safe havens of Islamic State as the country marked a subdued 100th Independence Day after a horrific wedding attack claimed by the local ISIS affiliate.

President Ashraf Ghani's comments came as Afghanistan mourns at least 63 people, including children, killed in the Kabul bombing at a wedding hall late Saturday night. Close to 200 others were wounded.

Fresh violence was reported Monday as an Afghan official said at least 66 people were wounded in a series of explosions in the eastern city of Jalalabad. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Many outraged Afghans are asking whether an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban to end nearly 18 years of fighting will bring peace to long-suffering civilians. The wedding hall bomber detonated his explosives in the middle of a dancing crowd, and the ISIS affiliate later said he had targeted a gathering of minority Shites, whom it views as apostates deserving of death.

Both the bride and groom survived, and in an emotional interview with local broadcaster TOLOnews the distraught groom, Mirwais Alani, said their lives

were devastated within seconds. Even as victims' loved ones mourned, there were fears that funerals and memorials could also be targeted.

A sharply worded Taliban statement questioned why the U.S. failed to identify Saturday's attacker in advance. Another Taliban statement marking the independence day said to "leave Afghanistan to the Afghans."

More than anything in their nearly yearlong negotiations with the U.S., the Taliban want some 20,000 U.S. and allied forces to withdraw from the country. The U.S. for its part wants Taliban assurances that Afghanistan — which hosted al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden before 9/11 — will not be a launching pad for global terrorist attacks.

The U.S. envoy in talks with the Taliban, Zalmay Khalilzad, on Sunday said the peace process should be accelerated to help Afghanistan defeat the ISIS affiliate. That would include intra-Afghan talks on the country's future, a process that could take years.

But Ghani on Monday asserted that the Taliban, whom the U.S. now hopes will help to curb the ISIS affiliate's rise, are just as much to blame for the wedding attack. His government is openly frustrated at being sidelined from the U.S. talks with the insurgent group, which regards the Afghan government as a U.S. puppet.



RAFIQ MAQBOOL/AP

A relative wails near the coffins of victims of the Dubai City wedding hall bombing during a mass funeral in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the late Saturday attack.

### The deadliest recent attacks in Afghanistan

2017

**May 31.** A suicide bombing in Kabul kills 90 people.

**April 21.** Gunmen wearing army uniforms storm a military compound in Balkh province, killing more than 140 soldiers.

**March 8.** ISIS claims responsibility after gunmen wearing white lab coats storm a military hospital in Kabul, killing 50 people.

**Dec. 28.** An ISIS suicide bomber strikes a Shiite cultural center in Kabul, killing at least 41 people.

2016

**July 23.** A suicide bomber detonates his explosive vest among demonstrators in Kabul, killing at least 61 people.

**April 19.** A suicide bomber backed by heavily armed militants kills 64 people in Kabul.

From The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The deadly bombing at a wedding in Afghanistan's capital late Saturday was a stark reminder that the war-weary country faces daily threats not only from the long-established Taliban but also from a brutal local affiliate of Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for the attack.

Here is a look at some of the deadliest attacks in recent years.

2019

**Aug. 17.** An ISIS suicide bomber kills at least 63 people, including women and children, at a crowded wedding party in Kabul.

**Aug. 7.** A Taliban car bomb aimed at Afghan security forces kills 14 people and wounds more than 140 in Kabul.

**July 31.** A roadside bomb tears through a bus in western Afghanistan, killing at least 32 people.

**July 28.** An attack against the

Kabul office of the Afghan president's running mate kills at least 20 people.

2018

**Nov. 20.** A suicide bomber kills at least 50 at a gathering of Islamic scholars in Kabul.

**Sept. 11.** A suicide bombing at a rally against a police commander in eastern Afghanistan kills at least 68.

**Aug. 15.** ISIS claims responsibility after a suicide blast in a Shiite area in Kabul kills 34 students.

**April 30.** ISIS claims responsibility after a double suicide bombing in Kabul kills at least 25, including several journalists.

**April 22.** An ISIS suicide bomber attacks a voter registration center in Kabul, killing 57 people.

**Jan. 27.** The Taliban claim responsibility after a bomb-rigged ambulance explodes in Kabul, killing at least 103.

## Turkey says airstrikes target its army convoy in Syria, kill 3

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Airstrikes targeted a Turkish army convoy inside Syria on Monday, killing three civilians and wounding 12 others, the Turkish Defense Ministry said, but there was no word on Turkish casualties.

The ministry said the convoy was attacked while heading to a Turkish observation post in the rebel-held stronghold of Idlib, where Syrian troops have been on the offensive since late April.

However, Syria's Foreign Ministry said the convoy of armored vehicles was delivering ammunition to a major rebel-held town, Khan Sheikhoun, which lies on the front line of fighting along the southern edge of the enclave. The town is a stronghold of the al-Qaida-linked militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the most powerful group in the rebel-held areas.

The Turkish move into Idlib appears to be a message by Ankara that it will not allow Syrian



THIGA NEWS AGENCY/AP

This photo provided by activist-operated Thiga News Agency shows a Turkish military convoy heading toward Khan Sheikhoun, Syria, on Monday. The convoy was stopped by airstrikes, activists said.

forces to capture Khan Sheikhoun. Syrian government forces entered its outskirts earlier Monday. The town's fall would also cut the highway linking Idlib to

northern parts of Hama province, home to one of Turkey's 12 observation posts on the edge of Idlib province.

It was not immediately clear

whether Syrian government or Russian warplanes had struck near the convoy, but the development marked a sharp escalation in tensions in Idlib.

The Turkish Defense Ministry's brief statement did not provide further details but "strongly condemned" the airstrikes, adding that they were "against existing agreements as well as our cooperation and dialogue with Russia."

The strikes hit near the highway where the convoy was traveling, Syrian activists said.

Turkey backs the rebels who have been in control of the region since 2012, while Russia backs Syrian President Bashar Assad's government, which has vowed to take back Idlib. Turkey has 12 observation posts in and on the edges of Idlib province.

Turkey's private DHA news agency said Syrian government planes targeted the route of a Turkish military convoy carrying reinforcement vehicles and

personnel. The report said the convoy could not proceed because the route between Maaret al Numan and Khan Sheikhoun was targeted, and sheltered at a safe location. The agency did not report any casualties.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said airstrikes believed to be Russian struck near the highway and forced the nearly 25-vehicle Turkish convoy to stop.

Mazen al-Shami, an opposition activist based in Idlib, also said that warplanes struck areas near where the convoy was moving. The Sham Network, an activist collective, posted photos of the convoy — a mushroom of smoke, apparently from the airstrike, could be seen in the distance.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry called the convoy's incursion a "flagrant Turkish intervention," saying it had reached Saraqeb, a town north of Khan Sheikhoun early on Monday.



## NATION

# White House to end payments of some foreign aid

By JUSTIN SINK  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration will move forward within days with a plan to cancel certain foreign aid payments authorized by Congress, setting up a fight with lawmakers opposed to the move.

A senior administration official confirmed that the so-called rescissions package would be announced early this week.

Some of the funding being zeroed out was for projects like installing solar panels in the Caribbean and creating safe spaces in Ireland for people upset about Brexit, said the administration official, who declined to be identified discussing plans not yet made public.

CNN reported Saturday that the move would take aim at funding for the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as the United Nations for certain peacekeeping operations in the Northern Triangle countries of Honduras,

Guatemala and El Salvador.

The official said that Congress, during the Trump administration, has funded State and USAID at about \$12 billion above the president's budget requests and that the rescission package would return some of that excess back to the budget.

Republican lawmakers who are typically Trump allies, notably Sen. Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina, last week urged the president to reconsider "in the strongest possible terms" after word of the possible rescissions was reported.

"We share your concern about our mounting national debt, which in itself creates security risks to the country," Graham and Rep. Hal Rogers, of Kentucky, said in a letter to Trump.

"However, it has been reported that this proposal makes sweeping and indiscriminate cuts without regard to national security impacts."

## Man accused of threat to Jewish center jailed

NEW MIDDLETOWN, Ohio — Police said a man accused of making what they believe was a threat to a Jewish center in Ohio on Instagram has been arrested on telecommunication harassment and aggravated menacing charges.

New Middletown police said they arrested James Reardon Jr., 20, at his home Saturday in a Mahoning County village. WKBN-TV reported police Chief Vincent D'Egidio said Reardon allegedly posted a video last month of a man shooting a semiautomatic rifle with the caption: "Police identified the Youngstown Jewish Family Community shooter as local white nationalist Seamus O'Reardon."

Reardon was scheduled to be arraigned Monday by video in Struthers Municipal Court.

The posttagged the Jewish Community Center, of Youngstown. Authorities say the Instagram account was Reardon's.

## Fla. man accused of planning mass shooting

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. — Authorities said a Florida man has been arrested and accused of threatening a mass shooting in text messages.

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office said Tristan Scott Wix, 25, of Daytona Beach, sent several text messages stating he wanted to "break a world record for longest confirmed kill ever."

The office said that in another message, Wix texted he wanted to reach 100 victims and had decided on a location.

It was unclear whom Wix was texting or how deputies obtained the information.

From The Associated Press



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Dravon Ames speaks at a June 18 community meeting in Phoenix as his fiancée, Iesha Harper, holds their daughter, London. Ames' run-in with police, captured on cellphone video, contributed to calls for civilian oversight of police in Phoenix.

# Phoenix looks to be next big city where citizens allowed to help oversee police

By ANITA SNOW  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Dozens of people, mostly blacks, huddled around tables scattered across a church gymnasium on a recent evening, discussing past run-ins with Phoenix police officers and ways to hold them accountable.

In a city still stinging from a video of officers pointing guns and cursing at a black family this summer, the confidential talks are intended to give officials in the country's fifth-largest city ideas on how residents could help oversee the police.

"I want to see, hear, feel and touch what you are coming up with so we can make real change," said police Chief Jeri Williams, wearing a casual civilian shirt and slacks to the gathering at the church. "I understand we have some real internal work to do."

Phoenix is among the last big U.S. cities without independent civilian oversight of police, said Samuel Walker, professor emeritus of criminal justice at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Phoenix's powerful police union has blocked past efforts to establish such a board and is resisting the new push.

Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Detroit, Denver and Portland, Ore., are among many cities with some kind of civilian oversight, with more joining following high-profile police

killings of black men and others in recent years.

Police in Colorado Springs, Colo., released video last week showing officers fatally shooting a black man as he ran away.

Williams, who's a black woman, and other Phoenix officials are moving toward adopting some kind of independent civilian oversight of police and are visiting communities this month to review their models.

Walker, who co-wrote the book "The New World of Police Accountability," said citizen oversight is a must for all modern U.S. police agencies.

"Phoenix needs to get over this opposition to civilian oversight. It exists virtually everywhere else," Walker said. "It is a basic way of building trust."

Walker said there are two basic types of oversight: civilian review boards, which investigate individual complaints, and independent auditors or monitors, which he prefers because they recommend practices and policies. There are also hybrids with elements of both.

"The communities need a process they can trust, whether it is a board, an auditor or a monitor," agreed Liana Perez, of the educational group the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement.

While oversight boards or monitors offer recommendations, final decisions on firings and

other discipline lie with the police chief and city and state laws.

The Phoenix Law Enforcement Association said on its website that it's a "bad idea" for civilians unfamiliar with state and U.S. constitutional law to make independent recommendations about police discipline.

The union added that residents already sit on some Phoenix police boards with officers and commanders who oversee use-of-force cases.

But the civilian review models would go further and be independent from the police department. Civilian board members could recommend discipline of officers and changes in policies and procedures. Depending on what Phoenix chooses, board members could even get subpoena power to compel people they are investigating to testify.

The police union did not respond to requests for additional comment on civilian review.

The changes come after cellphone video emerged in June showing Phoenix officers answering a shopping call by aiming their guns and yelling obscenities at Dravon Ames and his pregnant fiancée, Iesha Harper, who was holding their 1-year-old daughter. The video sparked outcry nationwide.

The couple later said their 4-year-old daughter took a doll from a store without their knowledge.



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## NATION

# Suburban voters pressure GOP to act on gun safety

By JONATHAN J. COOPER  
Associated Press

GILBERT, Ariz. — Following the news has grown stressful for Angela Tetschner, a 39-year-old nurse raising four children in this sprawling Phoenix suburb of tile roofs, desert yards, young families and voters who are increasingly up for grabs.

"Sometimes I do think about the school shootings," Tetschner, who doesn't pay much attention to politics but has been disappointed in President Donald Trump, said days after sending her 5-year-old boy to kindergarten. She'd like to see Congress tighten gun laws, but her expectations for action are low.

"You can't not put your kid in school," she said. "I just hope and pray that nothing happens."

Tetschner's worries are weighing heavy on Republicans in Arizona and elsewhere in the wake of recent mass shootings. The party

has seen once-reliable suburbs turn competitive as women worry about their children's safety and bristle at Trump's harsh rhetoric on race and immigration, and they embraced Democratic alternatives in last year's midterm elections.

GOP candidates looking ahead at tough races increasingly are eyeing new ways to address anxieties about gun violence, and to do that without crossing the party's base, which sees gun restrictions as an infringement on the constitutional right to bear arms.

"Republicans' backs are already against the wall among suburban voters, particularly college-educated women," said Whit Ayres, a Republican consultant. "And the inability of our political system to pass what most Americans see as commonsense reforms related to gun violence only makes the matter worse."

That tension is palpable in Arizona, a state with an ardent gun

culture as well as a growing population of newcomers seeking sun, jobs and affordable housing in the suburbs that ring Phoenix.

Republican Sen. Martha McSally's challenge is to navigate that divide. The freshman senator is facing a difficult reelection fight, probably against Democrat Mark Kelly, a former astronaut who became a prominent gun control advocate after his wife, then-U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, was shot in the head in an attempted assassination in Tucson in 2011.

While gun control often fades from the conversation weeks after a high-profile shooting, the issue is likely to be a steady presence in this race but not determine the outcome by itself.

"It's a part of their decision-making process, but it's only a part of it," said David Winston, a Republican pollster who advises GOP congressional leaders.

Pressure on McSally has been



JONATHAN J. COOPER/AP

Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., speaks to reporters about guns following a visit to a grocery store pharmacy in Phoenix on Thursday.

evident since shootings in California, Texas and Ohio. She has adopted a softer tone and spoken forcefully against hate and domestic terrorism. A vocal supporter of gun rights who once called universal background checks unconstitutional, McSally now says she is open to talking about new gun laws.

She also said she intends to introduce legislation to make domestic terrorism a federal crime. "We all need to do our part, whether there's a federal element, a state element, a society element," McSally told reporters

in Phoenix on Thursday. "Let's figure out what we can do that's meaningful, that's thoughtful, that's not political theater in order to stop these crimes."

McSally's message echoes what other Republicans are saying.

After two shootings killed 31 people in less than 24 hours, President Donald Trump started talking about tougher background checks on gun buyers and prominent Republicans expressed support for laws that make it easier for authorities to seize weapons from people deemed suicidal or dangerous.

## After Amash dumped Trump, his district may do same to him

By SARA BURNETT  
Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Eirran Betka-Pope was on her lunch break when she spotted hundreds of Donald Trump supporters protesting outside the office of Rep. Justin Amash, the first Republican on Capitol Hill to say Congress should begin impeachment proceedings against the president.

The protesters, who stood on the sidewalk with "Squash Amash" signs, saw his comments as the ultimate betrayal of a president they adore. But for Betka-Pope, a Trump critic, Amash's actions were commendable — and worthy of a counterprotest. The 32-year-old from Grand Rapids, who works in theater and sketch comedy, put on a Trump mask she happened to have in her car and joined the crowd on the sidewalk. She held up a piece of paper that read "I suck."

For the next half-hour, Betka-Pope stood silently as some people insulted her. A few passing drivers honked in support. More than one person flashed a middle



CORY MORSE, THE GRAND RAPIDS (MICH.) PRESS/AP

**Rep. Justin Amash, D-Mich., broke away from President Donald Trump and the Republican Party and is flirting with the idea of running for president.**

finger.

Betka-Pope happily took the abuse for the congressman. But the one thing the Democrat says she won't do to show her appreciation for Amash is vote for him.

"There are other candidates more aligned with my values,"

she said.

Amash's is another cautionary tale for GOP lawmakers who consider opposing Trump, whose job approval rating among Republicans has hovered around 90% for the past year, according to Gallup. Those who stand against him quickly find it is a lonely place to be and may spell the end of their political career. In the era of tribal politics, the worst thing to be may be a politician without a tribe.

The biggest winners to come out of Amash's big stand may be Democrats. Amash ultimately left the GOP and is running for his seat as an independent. He is flirting with running for president as a Libertarian, a threat that could wound Trump one more time. More than 200,000 Michigan voters supported a third-party candidate in 2016 when Trump won the state by just over 10,000 votes.

If Amash goes that route, he could help a Democrat win, just as he could if he stays in the race for the Grand Rapids-area House race. His exodus from the GOP has set up a three-way race that

could divide right-leaning voters and help the Democratic nominee win what was once a GOP stronghold. Democrats now see it as one of their best chances to pick up a House seat next year.

"I think this was a district everybody was eyeing when we thought we'd be running against one Republican," said Brian Stryker, a Democratic pollster who's working for Hillary Scholten, a Democrat seeking the nomination. "It's better to have two Republicans on the ballot."

Once a bedrock of Republicanism in the state, Kent County has become more Democratic as Grand Rapids and its suburbs have grown diverse and better educated in recent years, thanks to growth in several universities and the medical sector. The birthplace of Gerald Ford and hometown of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos now looks a lot like the politically divided suburban districts Democrats flipped in 2018 to win control of the House.

Democrats and Republicans vying for the seat are both raising money easily, with two Democrats on pace to surpass Amash and one

Republican already doing so. In a cruel twist for the congressman, Democrats say they're poised to hammer Amash for the times he voted with his former party, such as his support for a House bill to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Amash laid out his position on impeachment in May with a series of tweets, saying special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Trump's conduct during and after the 2016 presidential election includes "multiple examples of conduct satisfying all the elements of obstruction of justice." The politically powerful DeVos family said it would no longer give him money. GOP state Rep. Jim Lower announced his candidacy two days later and raised \$50,000 in roughly 48 hours.

Amash announced he was leaving the Republican Party on July 4, writing in a Washington Post op-ed that "modern politics is trapped in a partisan death spiral."

Trump responded by calling Amash "one of the dumbest & most disloyal men in Congress."

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## NATION

# Louisiana's first female governor dies of cancer

By MELINDA DESLATTE  
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Even after Hurricane Katrina ended her political career and as cancer ate away her strength, former Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco still described her life as “charmed.” With strength in her faith and her family, the state’s first elected female governor time and again refused to wallow in disappointment or disaster.

Blanco called it an “honor and blessing” to lead Louisiana through the fury and destruction of Katrina. As she knew her end was near from an incurable melanoma, Blanco talked of her final months as a “wonderful time for me.”

A pioneering woman in Louisiana politics, Blanco died Sunday in hospice care in Lafayette. She was 76.

“She was a woman of grace, faith and hope. She has left an eternal mark on all who knew her

because she was generous and unconditional in her love, warm in her embrace and genuinely interested in the welfare of others,” Blanco’s family said in a statement issued by Gov. John Bel Edwards’ office.

A Democrat, Blanco held Louisiana’s top elected job from 2004 to 2008 and served in state government offices for more than two decades. But her legacy rests with Katrina, the devastating August 2005 hurricane that killed more than 1,400 people in Louisiana, displaced hundreds of thousands and inundated 80% of New Orleans.

Historians will continue to debate whether any governor could have been prepared for such a catastrophe, but Blanco shouldered much of the blame after images of thousands stranded on rooftops and overpasses were broadcast to the world, and the government was slow to respond to the desperation.



BRAD PUCKETT, AMERICAN PRESS/AP

**Then-Gov. Kathleen Blanco is greeted by students of Maplewood Middle School in Sulphur, La., on Nov. 6, 2007. Blanco, who became Louisiana’s first female elected governor only to see her political career derailed by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, died Sunday.**

Blanco was criticized as unprepared, overwhelmed and indecisive. While she successfully fought for billions in federal aid, the recovery she guided moved ploddingly.

Blanco said Louisiana’s miseries were worsened by a Republican-led White House desperate to blame someone else for its disaster response failures.

“I just thought I could shout more loudly than the noise around me, but in the end, I couldn’t. There was just too much pain,”

she once said.

Despite the criticism, Blanco said it was an “honor and blessing” to lead Louisiana through Katrina and the follow-up blow of Hurricane Rita, which wrecked southwest Louisiana a month later.

“Katrina certainly left its mark and Rita left her mark on Louisiana. It made us tougher people though. It made us stronger,” the former governor said in July as she neared death.

Blanco had a rare eye can-

cer that she battled successfully in 2011, but it later returned and spread to her liver. She announced in December 2017 that she was being treated for the incurable melanoma.

Edwards, a Democrat mentored by Blanco, ordered flags at state buildings around Louisiana flown at half-staff through Blanco’s funeral, scheduled for Saturday. A public service for the former governor will be held Thursday at the Louisiana Capitol.

## Economists survey finds that 34% expect recession in the US in 2021

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A number of U.S. business economists appear sufficiently concerned about the risks of some of President Donald Trump’s economic policies that they expect a recession in the U.S. by the end of 2021.

Thirty-four percent of economists surveyed by the National Association for Business Economics, in a report being released Monday, said they believe a slowing economy will tip into recession in 2021.

That’s up from 25% in a survey taken in February. Only 2% of

those polled expect a recession to begin this year, while 38% predict that it will occur in 2020.

Trump has dismissed concerns about a recession, offering an optimistic outlook for the economy after last week’s steep drop in the financial markets and saying Sunday, “I don’t think we’re having a recession.” A strong economy is key to the Republican president’s 2020 reelection prospects.

The economists have previously expressed concern that Trump’s tariffs and higher budget deficits could eventually dampen the economy.

The Trump administration has

imposed tariffs on goods from many key U.S. trading partners, from China and Europe to Mexico and Canada. Officials maintain that the tariffs, which are taxes on imports, will help the administration gain more favorable terms of trade. But U.S. trading partners have simply retaliated with tariffs of their own.

Trade between the U.S. and China, the two biggest global economies, has plunged. Trump decided last Wednesday to postpone until Dec. 15 tariffs on about 60% of an additional \$300 billion of Chinese imports, granting a reprieve from a planned move that



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

**A survey found that a number of economists expect a U.S. recession in 2021 due to President Donald Trump’s economic policies.**

would have extended duties to nearly everything the U.S. buys from China.

The financial markets last week signaled the possibility of a U.S. recession, adding to concerns over the ongoing trade tensions and word from Britain and Germany that their economies are shrinking.

## Lawmaker under fire for posting noose photo

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana lawmaker who posted nooses under a Facebook story about a black man pleading guilty to rape is drawing criticism for using racist imagery.

Republican state Rep. Jim Lucas, from Seymour, posted a picture of a gallows with two nooses under a WISH-TV story about Marquise Dozier’s case.

Lucas said he wanted to punish the man and believes in capital punishment. Dozier faces up to 72 years in prison.

Lucas said he’s previously posted the image under stories involving white offenders.

Lucas said he isn’t racist and doesn’t believe the photo is.

The chair of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus blasted the photo.

Democratic state Rep. Robin Shackleford told The Indianapolis Star that noose imagery is well-known to be connected to the lynchings of blacks and the “normalization of racism” must end.

## NYPD fires officer involved in Eric Garner’s death

By TOM HAYS  
AND MICHAEL R. SISAK  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — After five years of investigations and protests, New York City’s police commissioner on Monday fired an officer involved in the 2014 chokehold death of an unarmed black man whose dying cries of “I can’t breathe” fueled a national debate over race and police use of force.

Police Commissioner James O’Neill announced at a midday news conference that he had

fired Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who is white, based on a recent recommendation of a department disciplinary judge. He said it was clear that Pantaleo “can no longer effectively serve as a New York City police officer.”

“None of us can take back our decisions,” O’Neill said, “especially when they lead to the death of another human being.”

O’Neill has been derogating on whether to accept a disciplinary judge’s recommendation to fire Pantaleo for using a banned

chokehold on Eric Garner.

The recordings led to years of protests and calls by black activists and liberal politicians for Pantaleo to lose his job.

City officials had long insisted, though, they couldn’t take action until criminal investigations were complete.

A state grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo in 2014.

Federal authorities, however, kept a civil rights investigation open for five years before announcing last month they wouldn’t bring charges.

Pantaleo’s lawyer has insisted the officer used a reasonable amount of force and didn’t mean to hurt Garner.

New York City’s mayor has declined to say whether he believes Pantaleo should lose his job but has been promising “justice” to the slain man’s family.

Garner’s death came at a time of a growing public outcry over police killings of unarmed black men that sparked the national Black Lives Matter movement.



## NATION

# Doctors say new rule will result in sicker immigrants

By SOPHIA TAREEN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Diabetics skipping regular checkups. Young asthmatics not getting preventive care. A surge in expensive emergency room visits.

Doctors and public health experts warn of poor health and rising costs they say will come from sweeping Trump administration changes that would deny green cards to many immigrants who use Medicaid, as well as food stamps and other forms of public assistance. Some advocates say they're already seeing the fallout even before the complex, 837-page rule takes effect in October.

President Donald Trump's administration trumpeted its aggressive approach last week as a way to keep only self-sufficient immigrants in the country, but health experts argue it could force potentially millions of low-income migrants to choose between needed services and their bid to stay legally in the U.S.

"People are going to be sicker. They're not going to go get health care, or not until they have to go to an emergency room," said Lisa David, president and CEO of Public Health Solutions, New York's largest public health organization. "It's going to cost the system a lot of money."

Immigrants who want permanent legal status, commonly called a green card, have long been required to prove they won't be "a public charge."

The Trump administration announced Aug. 12 that it would redefine the term to mean those who are "more likely than not" to receive public benefits over a certain period.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will also now consider other factors, including

income, education and English proficiency.

"We want to see people coming to this country who are self-sufficient," said Ken Cuccinelli, the agency's acting director. "That's a core principle of the American dream. It's deeply embedded in our history — and particularly our history related to legal immigration."

Two California counties and attorneys general in 13 states sued, saying the changes will increase public health risks.

There are signs that is already happening in cities including Chicago, Detroit and New York, immigrant advocates say.

Within hours of the announcement, a Minnesota immigration attorney said she received a flurry of calls from worried clients about whether to leave Medicaid.

A Detroit nonprofit helping Latinos and immigrants with social services said its usually jam-packed lobby was empty the day after the rules were unveiled.

Public Health Solutions, which serves a large immigrant population in New York, reported a 20% drop in food stamps enrollment since the rule was first proposed in the fall.

## The precedent

There is precedent for such a chilling effect.

After 1996 welfare and immigration changes that limited public assistance for some immigrants, the use of benefits dropped steeply among U.S. citizen children and refugees, groups who were still eligible. Studies based on data following that change showed people disenrolled from Medicaid at rates ranging from 15% to 35%, according to Harvard University's Francois-Bagnoud Center for



Dr. Jasmine Saavedra, left, a pediatrician at Esperanza Health Centers in Chicago, hands newborn Alondra Marquez to her mother, Esthela Nunez. Saavedra is concerned about a new Trump administration rule that would restrict public health and other assistance to many immigrants.

Health and Human Rights. And, it found, this came at a high cost: Asthma-related school absences in 1996 led to \$719 million in lost parental productivity.

Federico Mason, who emigrated from Mexico over two decades ago, said he is worried about the new criteria because he is low-income and doesn't speak English well. The Chicago resident said he has no immediate plans to remove his 8- and 15-year-old sons, who are U.S. citizens, from Medicaid, but the new rule has made him more fearful about providing for his family and about applying for a green card.

"If one day I want to adjust my status, it will be more difficult because of these unfair policies that continue to discriminate against me," he said in Spanish.

Overall, noncitizen, low-income immigrants use public benefits at a much lower rate than low-income U.S.-born citizens, but there's the possibility that millions of people could drop benefits out of fear or confusion.

Estimates vary. It could be as high as 24 million people, according to the nonpartisan Fiscal Policy Institute, which includes in its count anyone in a family that has received food, health or housing

support and where at least one person is a noncitizen.

Dr. Deanna Behrens, a pediatric critical care physician in suburban Chicago who wrote public testimony opposing the rule change, said children are the most vulnerable.

## Fear factor

She said noncitizen parents might hesitate to apply for their children who are U.S. citizens, mistakenly fearing that if their children get benefits, it will destroy their own chances of getting a green card and tear their families apart. That will lead to people being unable to afford care for chronic diseases like asthma and diabetes, as well as preventive measures. Instead, they'll rely on far more costly emergency rooms.

"This has forced the immigrant families into an impossible choice," Behrens said.

Roughly 544,000 people apply for green cards annually, with about 382,000 falling into categories that would be subject to the new review, according to the government.

Esperanza Health Centers, which runs four Chicago-based

clinics that serve low-income and largely immigrant populations, has seen an increase in the number of uninsured children. Since a draft of the new rule was released in the fall, the clinics report having 600 children without insurance, including those who have disenrolled from Medicaid. Typically, it's about 200, according to Jessica Boland, director of behavioral health.

The issue is personal for Dr. Jasmine Saavedra, a pediatrician who works at an Esperanza clinic in a heavily Latino Chicago neighborhood.

She is convinced that if new Trump administration criteria were in effect for her parents three decades ago, she would have had a far different future. Her parents emigrated from Mexico in the 1980s unable to speak English and with little education. While working low-wage jobs, they relied on food stamps for a short time to get by.

Her mother later quit public assistance because of the stigma, but Saavedra said there were days when her mother wouldn't eat so her children could. She believes that helped her become a doctor and her two sisters become an accountant and a nurse.

# 2 shuttered Arizona shelters for immigrant children could reopen

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The nation's largest provider of shelters for immigrant children is looking to reopen two facilities that the state of Arizona forced it to shutter last year because of issues with employee background checks and allegations of abuse.

Southwest Key filed applications to reopen a downtown Phoenix facility that can house 420 children and one in the outer suburbs that can house 139.

The suburban facility, in a place called Youngtown, was shuttered last year and reports that staff shoved and dragged un-

ruly children. Videos released to reporters show staffers dragging children on the ground and shoving a boy against a door.

Authorities investigated the allegations but decided not to pursue charges, saying there was "no reasonable likelihood of proving" the workers committed a crime. Arizona has seen numerous allegations of sexual abuse, including one made by the government of El Salvador, which said it received reports of three children, 12 to 17, who were sexually abused at unnamed shelters in Arizona.

A year ago, police arrested a 33-year-old man on suspicion of

sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl at the same Southwest Key shelter where, just weeks earlier, first lady Melania Trump had taken a tour.

Last September, a former youth care worker was convicted of sexually abusing seven teenage boys at a Phoenix-area shelter for immigrant children.

A separate state health department investigation found the organization didn't have fingerprint records for some employees. Southwest Key agreed to temporarily stop taking in more children and close two facilities, among other caveats to keeping its licenses in Arizona.

Southwest Key says it's ready to reopen the closed facilities.

Spokesman Neil Nowlin said in a statement that Southwest Key has resolved the issues that led to the closing of the shelters and that there is a continuing need for beds to house immigrant children.

"We are committed to caring for these youth and safely reuniting them with a loved one or sponsor," Nowlin said.

He didn't respond to questions from The Associated Press regarding what remedial actions the organization had taken and how many young people were in its care.

Immigration authorities say

they're dealing with a large increase in the number of unaccompanied children who come to the U.S. via Mexico.

The U.S. Border Patrol apprehended more than 69,000 unaccompanied children between October and the end of July, according to its data. That's compared with just over 50,000 in all of the 2018 fiscal year.

Southwest Key filed the new applications to reopen in June and July. An Arizona Department of Health and Human Services spokesman said the department hasn't yet completed a review, and he couldn't say how long it would take.

## WORLD

# Partisan streak of Netanyahu receives conflicting reviews

By JOSEPH KRAUSS  
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — In the eyes of critics, Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to bar two Democratic congresswomen at the request of President Donald Trump is the latest reckless gamble by a prime minister willing to sacrifice Israel's national interests for short-term gain.

The move infuriated Democrats and risked turning Israel into even more of a partisan issue at a time when Americans are fiercely divided and Trump faces a tough fight for reelection.

Yet, the pursuit of such allegedly short-sighted policies has kept Netanyahu and his Likud party in power for more than a decade, making him the longest-serving leader in Israel's history. The latest move, popular among his right-wing base, comes as he seeks an unprecedented fourth term in next month's elections.

Israel's steady, two-decade lurch to the right shows no sign of reversing. Its refusal to accede to international demands for concessions to the Palestinians

has not only brought no serious consequences from Washington but is now being rewarded and encouraged by the White House.

"Since Likud came to power in 1977 and Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, Israel has lived with dire warnings about the growing rift between American and Israeli Jews, or about the contradiction between Israel's claims to be a democracy and its undemocratic rule over more than 1 million Palestinians," said Nathan Thrall, the head of the Arab-Israeli Project at the Crisis Group, a Brussels-based think tank.

"The sky has not yet fallen." Last week, Netanyahu barred the entry of Reps. Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, newly elected Muslim congresswomen who have been fierce critics of Trump and of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

Netanyahu said the two were banned over their support of the international boycott movement, but Israel had said as recently as last month that all members of Congress would be welcome.

Instead, the decision seems to have been made in response to



Benjamin Netanyahu

Trump, who has sought to make the left-wing congresswomen the face of the Democratic Party as he seeks to fire up his base ahead of the 2020 elections. Trump said he spoke to "people over there" about the visit, without elaborating, and tweeted that it would be a "show of weakness" for Israel to let them in.

In the wake of the decision, Israeli commentators and analysts said Netanyahu had blatantly disregarded a bedrock principle of Israeli foreign policy — that it remain above America's partisan fray.

"The problem is not with these two members of Congress or with the boycott movement against Israel, whose achievements are zero," columnist Nahum Barnea wrote in the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth on Friday.

"The problem is that Israel is losing the Democratic Party, which for years was Israel's mainstay in the U.S. It is losing its elected officials, and what is much worse, it is losing its voters. ... Anyone who is opposed to Trump is finding it more and more difficult to support Israel."

## Danish PM: Trump's idea to buy Greenland 'absurd'

By JAN M. OLSEN  
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

Greenland is not for sale, and President Donald Trump's idea of buying the semiautonomous Danish territory in the Arctic from Denmark is "an absurd discussion," Denmark's prime minister said.

Mette Frederiksen, who was visiting the world's largest island to meet Premier Kim Kielsen, told reporters: "Greenland is not Danish. Greenland is Greenlandic. I persistently hope that this is not something that is seriously meant."

Frederiksen said Sunday that the Arctic, with resources that Russia and others could exploit for commercial gain, "is becoming increasingly important to the entire world community."

Retreating ice could uncover potential oil and mineral resources in Greenland that, if successfully tapped, could dramatically change the island's fortunes. However, no oil has yet been found in Greenlandic waters, and 80 percent of the island is covered by an ice sheet that is up to 1.9 miles thick, which means exploration is possible only in coastal regions.

Even there, conditions are far from ideal due to the long winter with frozen ports, 24-hour darkness and temperatures regularly dropping below minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit in the northern parts.

Trump is expected to visit Denmark Sept. 2-3 as part of a trip to Europe.

Trump said Sunday that he is interested in the idea, but it's not

a priority of his administration.

"Strategically, it's interesting and we'd be interested, but we'll talk to them a little bit. It's not No. 1 on the burner, I can tell you that," the president said.

It wouldn't be the first time an American leader has tried to buy the world's largest island. In 1946, the U.S. proposed to pay Denmark \$100 million to buy Greenland after flirting with the idea of swapping land in Alaska for strategic parts of the Arctic island.

Under a 1951 deal, Denmark allowed the U.S. to build bases and radar stations on Greenland.

The U.S. Air Force currently maintains one base in northern Greenland, Thule Air Force Base, some 745 miles south of the North Pole. Formerly military airfields in Narsarsuaq, Kulusuk and Kangerlussuaq have become civilian airports.

The Thule base, constructed in 1952, was originally designed as a refueling base for long-range bombing missions. It has been a ballistic missile early warning and space surveillance site since 1961.

Frederiksen, who became prime minister June 27, was on a planned two-day trip to Greenland before traveling to nearby Iceland for a meeting of the Nordic prime ministers.

"Thankfully, the time where you buy and sell other countries and populations is over. Let's leave it there. Jokes aside, we will, of course, love to have an even closer strategic relationship with the United States," Frederiksen said.

## Turkey suspends 3 mayors, alleging links to militants

The Washington Post

ISTANBUL — Turkey's government said Monday it had indicted three popular sitting mayors from Kurdish-majority provinces on terrorism charges and replaced them with state officials.

The suspension of the mayors came five months after they were elected in landslide victories in local polls. The move was criticized by opposition parties as anti-democratic and the latest evidence that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government is intent on marginalizing pro-Kurdish voices.

The mayors of Diyarbakir, Mardin and Van provinces are members of the opposition People's Democratic Party, or HDP, a pro-Kurdish party. Between them, they won nearly a million votes in local elections held in March — easily defeating candidates belonging to Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party.

Erdogan has frequently accused the HDP of links to the militant Kurdistan Workers' Party,

or PKK, which has fought a decadeslong insurgency against the Turkish government. HDP officials have denied such links. Dozens of HDP members have been arrested in the last three years, including mayors who were replaced with state administrators.

"This is a new and clear political coup," the HDP said in a statement. "It also constitutes a clearly hostile move against the political will of the Kurdish people."

The Interior Ministry said the mayors — Ahmet Turk, Adnan Selcuk Mizrakli and Bedia Ozgokce Ertan — were accused of crimes ranging from forming an armed terrorist organization to spreading propaganda for a terrorist group. The lengthy ministry statement said PKK had used some Turkish municipalities as "logistical centers" to procure financial support and equipment to support terrorism.

The Interior Ministry also announced Monday that it had arrested more than 400 people across Turkey for links to the PKK as part of the government's multifront war against the militant group.



STEVE PARSONS, PA/AP

The cooling towers at the disused coal-fired Didcot power station in Oxfordshire, England, are demolished Sunday.

## Demolition levels UK power plant once known as one of country's ugliest sights

Associated Press

LONDON — A British power station once voted one of the country's ugliest sights has been mostly destroyed in a controlled demolition.

The cooling towers of the disused coal-fired plant in Didcot, 55 miles west of central London,

were leveled early Sunday.

The complex, including its massive towers and giant chimney — which is due to be leveled later — was voted Britain's third-worst eyesore by Country Life Magazine in 2003.

The plant has been out of commission since 2013, but plans to demolish it were delayed when

four workers were killed on the site in 2016.

British media reported Sunday that an electrical explosion occurred around the same time as the demolition, knocking out power to homes in the surrounding area.

The link to the demolition is not yet clear.

## WORLD



KIN CHEUNG/AP

A staff member places mooncakes with Chinese words "Hong Kong people" on the tray at Wah Yee Tang bakery in Hong Kong on Aug. 9.

## Bakery in Hong Kong creates mooncakes with protest slogans

Associated Press

HONG KONG — A Hong Kong bakery is doing its part to support the city's pro-democracy protest movement by making mooncakes with a message.

At Wah Yee Tang, the traditional Chinese harvest festival treat comes with a twist: slogans opposing the city's Beijing-backed government and promoting Hong Kong's unique identity that have become popular rallying cries during the protests.

Bakery owner Naomi Suen hopes the cakes will bring about positivity during a time of political unrest.

Suen's mooncakes carry messages including "No withdrawal, no dispersal" and "Hong Kong people."

Other versions say "Be water," referring to the protesters' philosophy,

inspired by martial arts star Bruce Lee, of taking a fluid approach to their demonstrations.

Known for being dense and calorie-rich, mooncakes are typically filled with lotus seed or red bean paste and a salted egg yolk symbolizing the moon.

Suen hopes hers can "make Hong Kong people happy again."

Customer Sandy Lam said the cakes "represent our voices" and reflect the "actual situation" for protesters.

Demonstrators have taken to the streets since early June as part of a protest movement that began with the demand to scrap extradition legislation that could have seen criminal suspects sent to China. It expanded to include calls for full democracy and an inquiry into what they say is police violence against protesters.

## Leaked UK memos warn of shortages in 'no-deal' Brexit

By RAPHAEL SATTER

Associated Press

LONDON — Secret British government documents have warned of serious disruptions across the country in the event that the U.K. leaves the European Union without a trade deal on Oct. 31, according to a report.

The Sunday Times newspaper published what it said was what the British government expects in the case of a sudden, "no-deal" Brexit.

Among the most serious are "significant" disruptions to the supply of drugs and medicine, a decrease in the availability of fresh food and even potential fresh water shortages due to possible interruptions of imported water treatment chemicals.

Although the grim scenarios reportedly outlined in the government documents have been floated by academics and economists, they've been repeatedly dismissed as scaremonger-

ing by Brexit proponents.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he is ready to leave the EU regardless of whether he is able to renegotiate the Brexit deal struck with Brussels by his predecessor, Theresa May.

His own officials, however, have warned that with a no-deal Brexit, the sharing of law enforcement data and the health of Britain's crucial financial services industry could be in jeopardy after Oct. 31.

The opposition Labour Party, which is trying to delay Brexit and organize a government of national unity, held up the report as another sign that no-deal must be avoided.

"It seems to me is what we've seen is a hard-headed assessment of reality, that sets out in really stark terms what a calamitous outcome of no-deal Brexit would mean for the United Kingdom," lawmaker Nick Thomas-Symonds told Sky News television.

# US meets secretly with Venezuelan socialist boss

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — The U.S. has made secret contact with Venezuela's socialist party boss as close allies of President Nicolas Maduro's inner circle seek guarantees they won't face prosecution for alleged abuses and crimes if they cede to growing demands to remove him, according to a senior Trump administration official.

Diosdado Cabello, who is considered the most powerful man in Venezuela after Maduro, met last month in Caracas with someone who is in close contact with the Trump administration, the official told The Associated Press. A second meeting is in the works but has not yet taken place.

The AP is withholding the intermediary's name and details of the encounter with Cabello out of concern the person could suffer reprisals. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the talks, which are still preliminary. It's not clear whether the talks have Maduro's approval or not.

Cabello, 56, is a major power broker inside Venezuela, who has seen his influence in the government and security forces expand as Maduro's grip on power has weakened. But he's also been accused by U.S. officials of being behind massive corruption, drug trafficking and even death threats against a sitting U.S. senator.

The administration official said that under no circumstances is the U.S. looking to prop up Cabello or pave the way for him to substitute Maduro. Instead, the goal of the outreach is to ratchet

up pressure on the regime by contributing to the fight the U.S. believes is taking place behind the scenes among competing circles of power within the ruling party.

Similar contacts exist with other top Venezuelan insiders, the official said, and the U.S. is in a listening mode to hear what it would take to them to betray Maduro and support a transition plan.

But an aide said the U.S. has been increasingly knocking on his door, desperately looking to establish contact. The aide rejected the notion Cabello was somehow betraying Maduro, saying that Cabello would meet with Americans only with the president's permission and if it contributes to lifting sanctions he blames for crippling the oil-dependent economy. The aide spoke on the condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to discuss political affairs publicly.

A person familiar with the July encounter said Cabello appeared savvy and arrived to the meeting with the U.S.-backed envoy well-prepared, with a clear understanding of Venezuela's political problems. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because they aren't authorized to discuss the matter.

As Venezuela's crisis grinds on, a predictable pattern has emerged in which Juan Guaido, who the U.S. and dozens of other countries recognize as Venezuela's rightful leader, has been unable to woo the military and take power but Maduro lacks enough strength to apprehend his rival or rescue the collapsed economy amid ever-tightening U.S. sanctions. This month, the U.S. slapped a new round of sanctions that seizes

all of the Maduro government's assets in the U.S. and threatens to punish companies from third countries that continue to do business with him.

Talks sponsored by Norway between the opposition and government have been slow-going and were suspended this month by Maduro, who accused Guaido of celebrating the U.S.' "brutal blockade." Neither Cabello, the Venezuelan military nor U.S. government are a party to those talks.

To break the stalemate, some conspirators are looking to the U.S. to devise a plan to protect government insiders who turn against Maduro from future prosecution.

The U.S. has repeatedly said it would offer top socialist leaders relief from sanctions if they take "concrete and meaningful actions" to end Maduro's rule. In May, it quickly lifted sanctions against Maduro's former spy chief, Gen. Manuel Cristopher Figueroa, after he defected during a failed military uprising.

As head of the constitutional assembly, Cabello has the power to remove Maduro, a position that could come in handy in any negotiated transition. But to date, he's run the institution, which the U.S. considers illegitimate, as a rubber-stamping foil to the opposition-controlled congress, showing no signs of possible desertion.

It's not clear who initiated the contact with Cabello. But the U.S. official said Cabello was talking behind the back of the embattled socialist despite his almost daily displays of loyalty and frequent harangues against President Donald Trump.

## Notre Dame cleanup resumes with major anti-contamination measures

Associated Press

PARIS — Specialists shoring up fire-damaged Notre Dame Cathedral were returning to the Paris site Monday for the first time in nearly a month, this time wearing disposable underwear and other protective gear after a delay prompted by fears of lead contamination.

Activity at the worksite resumed Monday under strict new lead-protection measures for the stonemasons, cleanup workers and scientists working on the site, according to the Culture Ministry. They include throwaway full-body clothing, obligatory showers and a new decontamination zone to ensure that they don't track pollution outside the site.

The workers are clearing out hazardous debris and studying and consolidating the medieval monument — a crucial first step to prepare the fragile cathedral for a yevelong, multimillion-euro reconstruction effort.

But even this first step is taking longer than expected because of lead worries. Hundreds of tons of lead melted in the April 15 fire that decimated Notre Dame's roof and toppled its spire, spewing toxic dust into the air. Some environmental activists and residents say French authorities underplayed the lead poisoning risks in the aftermath of the blaze.

Under pressure from labor inspectors, the Paris regional administration ordered the consolidation work halted in July pending new worker protection measures.

Now multiple lead-prevention operations are underway in the

area around Notre Dame. Experts are carrying out a deep clean of neighborhoods nearby and are spraying chemical agents and vacuuming surrounding streets to remove any residual lead.

The regional health authority said last month that the main lead risk was inside the cathedral itself and its forecourt and that no dangerous lead levels had been registered since the fire in the surrounding streets where tourists and residents circulate.

Didier Durand, whose stoneworking company Pierrenel has eight employees working on the cathedral, said he's eager to get back to work.

"Notre Dame hasn't been saved yet," he told broadcaster France 1. "We have stabilized the buttress structure, yet ... and we're losing a lot of time."



## FAITH

## SEEKING SANCTUARY

In wake of mass shootings, churches arm, train members of anxious congregations

By JAKE BLEIBERG  
Associated Press

HASLET, Texas — Acrid gun smoke clouded the sunny entrance of a Texas church on a recent Sunday.

Seven men wearing heavy vests and carrying pistols loaded with blanks ran toward the sound of the shots, stopping at the end of a long hallway. As one peeked into the foyer, the “bad guy” raised the muzzle of an AR-15, took aim and squeezed the trigger.

The simulated gunfight at the church in Haslet was part of a niche industry that trains civilians to protect their churches using the techniques and equipment of law enforcement. Rather than a bullet, the rifle fired a laser that hit Stephen Hatherley’s vest — triggering an electric shock the 60-year-old Navy veteran later described as a “tingle.”

Shootings this month killed more than 30 people at an El Paso Walmart and a Dayton, Ohio, entertainment district. But gunmen have also targeted houses of worship in recent years, including a church in rural Sutherland Springs, Texas, where more than two dozen people were shot dead in 2017.

The anxiety of one mass shooting after another has led some churches to start training and arming their worshippers with guns. Not all security experts support that approach, but it has gained momentum as congregations across the country grapple with how to secure spaces where welcoming strangers is a religious practice.

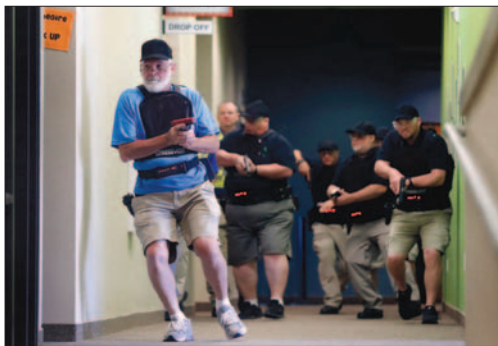
“Ten years ago, this industry was not a thing,” said David Rigall, a Texas police officer whose company trains churchgoers to volunteer as security guards. “I mean, sanctuary means a safe place.”

In 1993, Doug Walker said security wasn’t at the fore of his mind when, as a recent Baptist seminary graduate, he founded Fellowship of the Parks church in Fort Worth. But six years later, after a gunman killed seven people and took his own life at another church in the Texas city, the pastor said his thinking changed.

Today, the interdenominational church has four campuses and 3,000 worshippers on an average Sunday, Rigall said. It has increased security as it has grown, asking off-duty police to carry weapons at church events. It recently hired Rigall’s company, Sheepdog Defense Group, to train volunteers in first aid, threat assessment, deescalation techniques, using a gun and tactical skills, such as clearing rooms during an active shooting.

Walker, 51, said there wasn’t a single event that prompted his church to decide its guards needed more training. But Rigall said that after mass shootings, congregations realize that

“Every time the news comes on



**Above:** Brett Faulkner, left, fires blanks out of an assault rifle as he and Julia Gant, right, participate in a hostage-taking scenario during a security training session at Fellowship of the Parks campus in Haslet, Texas, last month. **Left:** Stephen Hatherley, left, leads fellow trainees down a hallway in a simulated gunfight scenario at Fellowship of the Parks campus.

TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

and there’s another shooting in a school or church or something like that, the phone starts ringing,” Rigall said.

The 46-year-old police officer said that he and a colleague had the idea for the company after the 2012 mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn. They started doing firearms trainings with parents and, after Rigall became certified under Texas law to train security guards, transitioned to churches.

The company incorporates Christian teachings into its courses, and more than 90 people at 18 churches have completed the 70 hours of initial training and become state-licensed guards through its program, Rigall said. The so-called sheepdogs

are insured and technically employed by the company. But they volunteer doing security at their own churches, which in turn pay Rigall.

On a Sunday in July, Brett Faulkner stood with an AR-15 in hand and his back to the cross in the sanctuary of Fellowship of the Parks campus in Haslet, a community about 15 miles north of Fort Worth. He pointed the rifle at a young woman’s back and yelled at the armed men advancing into the room, “I’m going to kill this woman. It’s going to happen right now.”

Faulkner, 46, an information technology worker, already completed a Sheepdog session but came to another church’s to play the bad guy and keep his skills

sharp.

“It really just comes down to caring about the people in that building,” Faulkner said of choosing to guard his small Baptist church.

Faulkner said his congregation reevaluated its security after recent mass shootings and went with Rigall’s company as a cost-effective option. “This is a good balance between the cost of paying professionals and relying on untrained volunteers,” he said.

Security professionals differ on what balance is right.

After 11 worshippers were shot dead during Shabbat morning services at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, the city’s Jewish community has added layers of defenses.

Since that October attack, con-

gregations that once felt guns were unnecessary or inappropriate have welcomed armed security, said Brad Orsini, security director for The Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh. But arming worshippers is not an approach the former FBI agent recommends.

“Carrying a firearm is an awesome responsibility,” said Orsini, who served in the Marine Corps before his nearly three decades with the FBI. “Because you have the ability to have a carry concealed permit does not make you a security expert. Because you have a firearm doesn’t necessarily mean you should be carrying it at the church on the weekend.”

Sheepdog Firearms, a Birmingham, Ala.-area gun range, offers police-style training to people looking to protect their churches. Owner David Youngstrom acknowledged the eight-hour course doesn’t produce experts.

But, he said, many of the roughly 40 Alabama churches that have sent people to take the class are small, rural congregations with limited means. For them, having armed volunteers can feel like the only option, he said.

And the trainings provide churches with evidence of having a security program in place if a tragedy turns into litigation. “It gives a good record for something that will hold up in court,” Youngstrom said.

Laws about carrying firearms in houses of worship vary from state to state. But as a general matter of liability, churches training members for security is not much different from a business hiring guards, according to Eugene Volokh, a professor at the UCLA School of Law.

A church could be sued if people were harmed because its security was badly trained, Volokh said, but also if it generally failed to protect people on its grounds. Both can be insured against and either is unlikely, he said.

Brian Higgins, a former police chief for Bergen County, N.J., and instructor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, said he’s seen varied approaches to firearms in his work consulting at houses of worship. Attitudes toward guns differ between urban and rural areas, as do the security needs, he said.

Churches comfortable arming members also draw lines to preserve an environment conducive to worship.

Fellowship of the Parks allows congregants to have concealed weapons in church. But Walker, the pastor, said that other than security, people carrying openly are asked to put their guns away or leave.

“If people open carry who are not uniformed that can be very unsettling,” Walker said. “You may not know if that person is a possible shooter or criminal, so we try to balance it.”

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Energy, banks most vulnerable to trade war

By STAN CHOE  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Looking across the stock market, it's hard to find a company that isn't vulnerable in some degree to the U.S.-China trade war.

Stocks of companies that do lots of business with China, such as chipmakers and other technology companies, are obvious candidates for investors to sell when trade worries rise. They have fallen more than the rest of the market whenever President Donald Trump sends out a tweet or speaks about tariffs.

But investors are also looking beyond these first-order effects as they pick out which stocks look susceptible to the trade war. Those picks now include many companies that have no significant ties to China but are still at risk.

That's why all but 2% of the stocks in the S&P 500 fell on Aug. 5, when worries ratcheted higher after China let its currency devalue to its lowest level in a decade.

The damage has been widespread since Trump shocked investors on Aug. 1 by saying he planned soon to extend tariffs across virtually all Chinese imports.

The latest tariffs cover about \$300 million of Chinese goods, many of them consumer products that were exempt from early rounds of taxes. Even though Trump has delayed some of the tariffs, they will ultimately raise costs for U.S. companies bringing goods from China.

Those companies will then have to either pass higher prices on to their customers or give up some of their profits. That's a big deal for investors because a stock's price tends to track the path of its



RICHARD DREW/AP

**Stocks of companies that do business with China are obvious targets to sell when trade worries rise.**

earnings over the long term.

One concern is that all the uncertainty on trade will lead businesses and shoppers to hold off on spending in hopes of waiting out the tumult. Businesses say they have seen inklings of such behavior, which, if it accelerates, could lead to a self-fulfilling cycle where weaker sales for companies push them to cut back on hiring. That could lead in turn to even weaker spending and do more damage to the economy. That's trouble for most companies, to some degree.

It's also why some of the hardest-hit stocks in recent weeks have little business, if any, in China but remain vulnerable to the consequences of the trade war. Among the losers in the dispute are:

### Energy companies

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 have plunged 10.2% since just before Trump sent his Aug. 1 tweet, the worst decline of the 11 sectors that make up the index.

National Oilwell Varco, for example, is based in Houston and

gets most of its revenue from supplying drilling and other technologies in the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Norway. But its stock has plunged nearly 22%, seven times the loss of the overall S&P 500.

That's in large part because the price of oil has sunk on worries that the trade war will do lasting damage to the global economy. If that happens, countries around the world will have less need to burn oil. The price of benchmark U.S. crude plunged nearly 8% on Aug. 1, its worst day in 4½ years.

### Banks

Financial stocks have been the second-worst performing sector in the S&P 500 in recent weeks as the prospect of less-profitable lending threatens banks' profits.

Comerica, for instance, has been sucked into an industrywide downdraft. It is based in Dallas and has bank branches mostly in Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Michigan. It has some businesses operating outside the country but in Canada and Mexico, not China. Its stock has sunk 16.2% during the trade tensions.

The escalation in the trade war has led a growing number of economists and analysts to warn about a possible recession. Those concerns have spread to the bond market, where interest rates have sunk sharply.

The market for interest rates has gone so haywire this month because of worries about a possible recession that long-term Treasury yields in some cases are lower than short-term yields. That's trouble for an industry that relies on borrowing money at short-term rates, lending it out at long-term rates and pocketing the difference.

### Microchip companies

Companies that make microchips that go into laptops and other electronics have been some of the trade war's biggest victims because of how dependent they are on China.

Consider Micron Technology, which got more than 57% of all its sales from China in its last fiscal year. Not only that, it needs China for rare earth minerals found there, and it also has significant manufacturing operations in the country.

Micron sank 2.9% on Aug. 1, when Trump announced he would extend tariffs to products that include laptops and mobile phones. That was more than triple the S&P 500's loss. Since Trump's 2018 tweet that "trade wars are good, and easy to win," Micron is down 8.5%, while the S&P 500 is up 7.9%.

### Industrial companies

Since Trump initiated the trade with China in 2018, the reaction in the market has been to sell big industrial companies whenever tensions rise. The temptation makes sense given how global the companies are, but it may be misguided, said Stephen Volkman, an equity analyst at Jefferies who covers machinery and industrial companies.

"Every time there's a tweet, I get a call and asked, 'How does this affect CAT?'" Volkman said, using the ticker symbol for heavy equipment maker Caterpillar. "CAT tends to make what they sell where they sell it."

That means many of its products do not have to cross borders before they are sold, which offers some insulation from the effect of tariffs. Other industrial compa-

nies have also already absorbed tariffs and successfully passed the costs on to their customers. But "it's a little like shouting in the wind to get anyone to care," Volkman said.

Asked if any of the industrial companies he follows is much more vulnerable than others because of this next round of tariffs, he struggled to name one.

"The most important part is: Do we enter a recession because of them?" he said. "If that's true, that's true for all my companies."

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 20)	\$1.1392
Dollar buys (Aug. 20)	69.8778
British pound (Aug. 20)	\$1.24
Japanese yen (Aug. 20)	103.00
South Korean won (Aug. 20)	1,181.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2118
Canada (Dollar)	1.3277
China (Yuan)	7.0502
Denmark (Krone)	6.7216
Egypt (Pound)	16.6247
Euro	\$1.1096/0.9012
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8436
Hungary (Forint)	254.12
Israel (Shekel)	3.5334
Japan (Yen)	106.56
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3043
Norway (Krone)	8.9695
Philippines (Peso)	52.41
Poland (Zloty)	3.94
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3848
South Korea (Won)	1,210.08
Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	0.9809
Thailand (Baht)	36.84
Turkey (Lira)	5.0478
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federally funded purchase rate	2.12
3-month bill	1.83
30-year bond	2.00

### WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Airport worker fired for writing 'You ugly!' note

**NY** ROCHESTER — An airport security worker in New York has been fired for handing a passenger a handwritten note that said, "You ugly!"

The June incident came to light last week after passenger Neal Strassner obtained security video through a public records request and posted it to YouTube.

The video from Greater Rochester International Airport shows the worker handing Strassner the note after he passes through a metal detector. Strassner said he didn't think much of it and continued toward his gate. That's when he said the woman yelled out, "You gonna open the note?"

Strassner said that when he did, the woman burst out laughing. He later complained to her supervisors.

## Carbon dioxide tank explodes at wedding

**NJ** GARFIELD — Authorities said a carbon dioxide tank being used by a disc jockey at a New Jersey wedding exploded, injuring three people on the dance floor.

NorthJersey.com reported that Garfield police said the tank exploded shortly after 11 p.m. Friday at the Venetian.

Deputy Chief Ron Polonkay said the 32- to 34-year-old victims were taken to Hackensack University Medical Center with injuries not considered life-threatening. All were reported in stable condition.

## Mechanical lift crashes; window-washers saved

**CO** DENVER — Firefighters rescued two window-washers after a mechanical lift crashed through a parking garage in Denver's Cherry Creek neighborhood, the Denver Post reported. The crash also ruptured a gas line.

Police told the Post that the incident happened Saturday on Cook Street. Denver Fire Department spokesman Lt. Robbie Turner said two workers were rescued by fire officials and evaluated at Denver Health.

Turner said he did not know if the workers were injured.

## Woman thinks she's ill, gives birth to triplets

**SD** STURGIS — A South Dakota woman who recently gave birth to triplets said she didn't find out about her pregnancy until she went to the hospital with what she thought were kidney stones.

KOTA-TV reported that Danelle Giltz, of Sturgis, gave birth to the healthy triplets on Aug. 10. Giltz said that despite having two other children, she did not know she was 34 weeks pregnant. She said that when she started having pains, she thought it was from kidney stones, which she has had before. Doctors told her she was actually in labor — with multiple babies.

The triplets were born within



ANDREA SMITH/AP

## Yoda the dog

A dog dressed as Yoda from "Star Wars" won the cosplay costume contest award at Doggy Con in Woodruff Park in Atlanta on Saturday. Cosplay is the practice of dressing up like a fictional character.

four minutes. Each weighed about 4 pounds. The babies' names are Blaze, Gypsy and Nikki.

## Man uses loader to dump dirt on girlfriend

**FL** CRESTVIEW — Authorities said a Florida man used a front-end loader to dump a large bucket full of dirt on a car with his girlfriend inside.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office said Hunter Mills, 20, was charged with felony criminal mischief.

The sheriff's office said Mills invited his girlfriend to talk with him at a dirt pit in Crestview where he worked. Officials said the girlfriend arrived in a white sedan owned by someone else, and after he asked her a question, he used a front-end loader to dump a mound of dirt atop the car.

She wasn't hurt, but officials posted a photograph on social media showing dirt piled on the car and spilling across the driver's seat and elsewhere.

## Man convicted after rap battle leads to murder

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — A St. Paul man has been found guilty of fatally stabbing a man earlier this year after they offended each other during a rap battle.

## THE CENSUS

**\$1.3M**

Hansen, of Salt Lake City, Utah. Only 24 dimes were struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1894, and researchers today can account for only nine of them.

The amount paid for a rare dime at a public auction at the American Numismatic Association in Chicago. John Brush, of Virginia Beach, Va., acquired the 125-year-old U.S. silver dime on behalf of collector Dell Loy

The Star Tribune reported that Quinten Osgood, 29, was convicted Friday of two counts of second-degree murder and one count of first-degree manslaughter for the January killing of Anthony Madison.

Authorities say Osgood was attending a party at Madison's home Jan. 3 and the two started arguing over music. Prosecutors say Madison ordered Osgood to leave, and he damaged a gate as he left.

Madison confronted him outside, and the two fell to the ground fighting. Prosecutors say Osgood stabbed Madison during the fight, killing him. Osgood told jurors he acted in self-defense.

## Man sentenced for stealing fireman's truck

**CA** CHICO — One of two men convicted of stealing a firefighter's pickup truck during the deadliest wildfire in California history has been sentenced to 41 days in jail and three

years of probation.

The Chico Enterprise-Record reported that Robert Depalma, of Concow, was also ordered to pay more than \$6,000 in restitution at his sentencing in Butte County Superior Court on Friday.

Prosecutors said Depalma and William Erbacher stole the truck from a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection station on Nov. 8, when the wildfire broke out and largely leveled the town of Paradise and killed 86 people.

Erbacher admitted to taking the truck, and Depalma admitted to driving it for several days.

## Amusement park to debut new steel coaster

**OH** MASON — A new steel roller coaster is set to debut at one of Ohio's largest amusement parks next year.

"Orion" will open at Kings Island in Mason in spring 2020.

Kings Island officials say it will be the tallest and fastest coaster

at the Cincinnati-area amusement park.

Mike Koontz, vice president and general manager of the park, said the ride is categorized as a Giga coaster. Park officials say coasters in that category have a height or drop between 300 and 399 feet. The Orion will move at 91 mph and feature a 300-foot drop.

## Message in bottle from Russian navy found

**AK** NOME — A 50-year-old letter in a bottle was discovered by a man on the shores of western Alaska, connecting him with the Russian navy.

KNOM-AM reported Aug. 13 that Tyler Ivanoff found the handwritten Russian letter early this month while gathering firewood near Shishmaref.

Officials said Ivanoff posted photos on Facebook, where Russian speakers translated the message to be a greeting from the Russian navy dated 1969.

Officials said Russian reporters located the original writer, Capt. Anatoly Botsanenko, who said he sent the message while aboard the Sulak, a ship whose construction he oversaw in 1966 and that he sailed on until 1970.

Officials say Botsanenko teared up when shown photos of the bottle.

From wire reports



## FACES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Jacob Tremblay, from left, as Max, Keith L. Williams as Lucas and Brady Noon as Thor appear in a scene from “Good Boys.” Over the weekend, the coming-of-age film became the first R-rated comedy to reach No. 1 since “The Boss” in April 2016.

# A raunchy return

## ‘Good Boys’ tops box office, ending drought for R-rated comedies

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

The R-rated comedy, left for dead by some Hollywood studios, again reached No. 1 at the box office over the weekend thanks to the raunchy coming-of-age tale “Good Boys,” about a trio of 12-year-olds on a crude misadventure.

“Good Boys” surpassed expectations to debut with \$21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, dethroning the “Fast & Furious” spinoff “Hobbs & Shaw,” which slid to second with \$14.1 million in its third weekend. Not since Melissa McCarthy’s “The Boss” came in at No. 1 in April 2016 has an R-rated comedy topped the North American box office.

“This is like a unicorn sighting,” said Paul

Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore.

In recent years, R-rated horror has largely taken the place of R-rated comedy at the box office, as Hollywood has increasingly ceded the genre to TV and streaming services. But Universal Studios, which released “Good Boys,” has kept the flame. The studio was behind “The Boss” as well as the intervening years’ highest grossing domestic comedies: 2017’s “Girls Trip” and 2018’s “Night School.”

“Good Boys” broke out of a crowded late-summer field of new releases. The weekend’s other new widely released films — the animated sequel “The Angry Birds Movie 2,” the shark attack sequel “47 Meters Down: Uncaged,” the Bruce Springsteen-inspired drama “Blinded by the Light” and Richard

Linklater’s Cate Blanchett-led “Where’d You Go Bernadette” — all fizzled.

“Good Boys” rode a buzzy premiere at South By Southwest, good reviews (80% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and the imprimatur of producers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg (“Good Boys” is much like a tween version of “Superbad”) to notch the best opening for an original comedy this year. Second place is Universal’s body-switch comedy “Little.”

Directed by Gene Stupnitsky (who co-wrote the script with Lee Eisenberg), “Good Boys” stars Jacob Tremblay, Keith L. Williams and Brady Noon as sixth graders trying to make it to their first kissing party. The movie’s much-watched red-band trailer traded on its ironies. As Rogen says, Tremblay, Williams and Noon are all too young to see their own movie alone.

## The Rock marries longtime girlfriend

With a simple “We do,” Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson announced his wedding to his longtime girlfriend on Instagram.

A photo of the movie star and Lauren Hashian was posted on the social media site. Both were wearing white, and they were standing overlooking the ocean. The post said the date of their apparent nuptials was Sunday, in Hawaii.

The couple have been dating for several years and have two young daughters. Johnson also has a teenage daughter from a previous marriage.

Johnson has a lot to celebrate. His movie “Hobbs and Shaw” has been a box office success since being released this month.

## Other news

■ Peter Fonda, who wrote and starred in the counterculture classic “Easy Rider,” died Friday at his home in Los Angeles. He was 79. The official cause of death was respiratory failure due to lung cancer. Born into Hollywood royalty as Henry Fonda’s only son, Peter Fonda carved his own path with his non-conformist tendencies and earned an Oscar nomination for co-writing “Easy Rider.” He never won an Oscar but was nominated for best actor in “Ulee’s Gold.”

■ The guitar Duane Allman played alongside Eric Clapton on the Derek and the Dominoes hit “Layla” recently sold at auction for \$1.25 million, according to the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph. The gold-topped 1957 Gibson Les Paul affectionately called “Layla” had been on display at the Allman Brothers Band museum at The Big House in Macon. The instrument was bought by a collector who wished to remain anonymous. The buyer agreed to occasionally display the guitar at the museum. Allman died in a motor-cycle accident in October 1971.

■ Heather Locklear, 57, pleaded no contest Friday to charges that she fought with first responders during two visits to her Southern California home last year. A judge sentenced her to 120 days in jail, but the sentence was stayed pending completion of a substance-abuse treatment program. The “Melrose Place” and “T.J. Hooker” actress was also sentenced to three years’ probation.

From The Associated Press

## ‘After the Wedding’ a family affair for Moore

By RAGAN CLARK  
Associated Press

Julianne Moore is accustomed to working with her husband, director Bart Freundlich, but it was a real family affair when their daughter joined them for their latest collaboration. Liv Freundlich, 17, was a production assistant on “After the Wedding,” which was released this month.

“We loved having her around more than she loved being around,” Freundlich said with a laugh. “The best part of it was just getting to be with each other constantly.”

The film, written and directed by Freundlich, is a remake of director Susanne

Bier’s hit Dutch movie of the same name. To put his own stamp on it, Freundlich swapped the gender of the leads to women, using Moore and Michelle Williams. Billy Crudup plays a role that was portrayed by a woman in the original.

Williams plays Isabel, an orphanage volunteer living in India who comes to the U.S. to ask Moore’s character, Theresa, to help her organization. She attends a wedding for Theresa’s daughter and meets Theresa’s husband, played by Crudup, with whom she has a history.

Moore also served as a producer. Freundlich said it helps to be married collabora-

tors because they don’t compartmentalize their home life and work life. Moore joked it “might’ve been more fun for him.”

“I’m usually used to going home and dropping it,” said Moore. “It’s sort of a relief for me to get in my car and be like, ‘Phew, that’s the end of my day and I’ll think about tomorrow later,’ but for a director it’s constant. The amount of work that they have to do is really extraordinary. So, we would talk about it in the car on the way home, we would talk about it before we would go to bed, we would talk about it first thing in the morning. But, like I said it was a shared passion, too, so that was wonderful.”



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Julianne Moore, right, stars in “After the Wedding,” which was directed by her husband, Bart Freundlich. Their daughter was a production assistant on the film.

# SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS BY SUBARU/TNS

## Outback continues to be a family-hauling staple

By LARRY PRINTZ  
Tribune News Service

**T**he Subaru Outback may not look heroic, but it is. Introduced six generations ago in 1994, it marked a change in direction for the brand, which had been intent on chasing Toyota and was failing. Instead, the Outback saved Subaru as the car's success led the brand to refocus on selling all-wheel drive as a unique selling point in its cars. In 1994, that was unique. Twenty-five years later, it still is, at least in cars.

The Outback's popularity can be seen in the lack of change in appearance. Looking at the redesigned 2020 Outback, you'd be hard-pressed to tell that it's new. Even though it rides on Subaru's new global platform, you have to look closely to notice any difference. It looks a bit sleeker and a bit bigger, and it wears a larger emblem on the grille. But climb inside and you'll find the Outback has changed significantly.

The larger interior sports a newfound refinement that's quite fetching, anchored by an 11.5-inch vertical tablet-style screen on most models. (A 7.5-inch screen is standard on base models.) The user interface features large, easy-to-activate buttons and an intuitive software setup. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are standard, and up to four USB ports and a wireless phone-charging slot are available on upper trim levels.

The Limited test vehicle featured very comfortable leather seats, although side bolstering could be better. All Outbacks get sound-insulated windshields, although only Limited and Touring models get

sound-insulated front windows. It makes enough of a difference to warrant getting a model with the feature.

Two engines are offered. Most buyers will choose the 2.5-liter flat four rated at 182 horsepower, although a turbocharged 2.4-liter powerplant rated at 260 horsepower is also offered. Both mate to a continuously variable automatic transmission, although the turbo's transmission is designed to handle its extra torque and is more rewarding when pushed hard. That said, most drivers will choose the turbo for its extra towing capacity: 3,500 pounds compared with the base car's 2,700 pounds.

### 2020 Subaru Outback Limited



**Base price:** \$27,655-\$40,705  
**Engine:** DOHC 2.5-liter horizontally-opposed four-cylinder  
**Horsepower/Torque:** 182 horsepower/176 foot-pounds @ 4,400 rpm  
**EPA fuel economy:** 26 mpg city/33 highway  
**Cargo capacity:** 32.5-75.7 cubic feet  
**Towing capacity:** 2,700 pounds

TNS

Regardless of which trim level you buy — Base, Premium, Sport, Limited with the base motor, or Limited XT, Onyx Edition XT, Touring XT with the turbo motor — the Outback makes for an ideal family hauler. While opting for the turbocharged engine does make for a significantly more powerful automobile, it doesn't make it more fun to drive.

The Outback's independent suspension uses MacPherson struts up front and double wishbones in the back. Sling it into a corner, and you can feel the car's weight as the car safely understeers and the tires let you know when they're reaching their limits. There's little body lean and virtually no unwanted rebound over bumps. In fact, bump absorption is very good. But most owners will never push it to extremes while cornering.

And, driven as most owners will, it returns an immensely satisfying driving experience. This is very much the ideal family hauler and foul-weather foe, one that handles competently and safely. Any sportiness you associate with it comes from the sports gear you load into it, not from the car's handling on-road.

Off-road it's a different story. This is where the Outback surprised me, proving to be more capable than you'd expect. While it lacks a dedicated low range, it features X-Mode, which helps overcome slick situations by adjusting the engine output and transmission gearing, increasing all-wheel drive engagement and optimizing the vehicle's traction control, active torque vectoring and hill descent control systems.

You'll find it performs as promised, plowing through muck and mire or controlling the vehicle's speed down a slippery slope that would hinder lesser vehicles. The

Outback is also surprisingly comfortable, absorbing all but the worst furrows, rocks and tree branches with aplomb. But its approach and departure angles do call for care when traversing ruts, fording streams and cresting hills.

And its cargo hold is immense. In fact, it's longer and wider than the far more expensive but not necessarily better Chevrolet Blazer.

The Outback also boasts a radically improved technology package. A new front view camera captures images within the driver's blind spots in front of the vehicle. Advanced Adaptive Cruise Control now integrates with Lane Centering, while its new drowsy driver alert system uses a dedicated infrared camera and facial recognition technology to identify driver fatigue and alert the driver and passengers. The same system recognizes drivers when they enter the car and appropriately adjusts the seats, side mirrors and radio station presets.

Other options include driver-assist technologies like LED Steering Responsive Headlights; Reverse Automatic Braking; Blind Spot Detection with Lane Change Assist and Rear Cross Traffic Alert; and EyeSight Assist Monitor with head-up display. There's even an optional 12-speaker Harman Kardon audio system with Clarif-Fi, and an in-vehicle Wi-Fi hotspot.

Prices start at \$27,655 for the base Outback, topping out at \$40,705 for the Outback Touring XT.

Subaru claims a hiking boot inspired its new Outback, and the analogy is an apt one. Capable and functional, it gets its appeal from its utility, but now with the added allure of a more upscale interior and up-to-date technology.

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## Navy could be torpedoing Trump's '20 chances

By HUGH HEWITT

Special to The Washington Post

Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were the most surprising states that turned from supporting President Barack Obama in 2012 to voting for Donald Trump in 2016, and they were critical to putting him in the White House. The 2020 election is looking very much like a three-state race again, with the same trio playing the deciding role.

Florida and Ohio are not likely to be in play — the 2018 midterm results confirmed their deepening red hue. And Democratic hopes of flipping Texas or Arizona are in the same category with Republican plans to turn New Hampshire or Colorado: perhaps, but not likely.

When it comes time to defend his red wall along the Great Lakes, Trump is going to come face to face with the consequences of his Pentagon leadership's failure to implement his oft-promised 355-ship Navy (up from 290 today).

Pennsylvania workers make many of the essentials that go into ships, including shafts manufactured in Erie and cooling systems in York. Every time the Navy awards a contract for a new ship, the president or vice president should be at one of those facilities, talking about the jobs the contracts will provide. But the Navy hasn't been issuing those contracts, so the president can't make those announcements.

The Navy could have gone big — could still go big — in Philadelphia. To extend the life of the existing fleet, a person familiar with the planning told me, the Navy must perform roughly 100 more ship dockings in the next decade than current dock space can accommodate. Philly Shipyard

has the capability to build floating dry docks to make up for that shortfall. Why isn't Trump announcing a plan to expand the Navy's dry-dock infrastructure while standing in Philly Shipyard?

Wisconsin benefits from Navy shipbuilding in two ways. First, there is the shipyard in Marinette that creates jobs in both Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The Fincantieri Marine Group is a bidder on the new 20-ship Navy FF(X) guided-missile frigate program, but politics cannot take precedence over ship design, so the contract is not guaranteed to land lakeside in Wisconsin. The least Trump could do, though, is insist that the Navy pick up the pace of its dreadfully slow design competition.

The Fincantieri Marinette Marine is already under contract to build four Multi-Mission Surface Combatant ships for Saudi Arabia. More work would be sent Wisconsin's way if the Trump administration could persuade the Saudis to increase their order or bring other countries, such as Israel, on board.

Incredibly, Michigan ranks near the bottom of all the states when defense spending is calculated as a percentage of a state's GDP — 47th out of 50 in fiscal year 2017 for what was once the arsenal of democracy. Per-resident defense spending in Michigan that year was a paltry \$386, compared with \$1,554 in Oklahoma.

When the Air Force decided in 2017 not to base F-35A fighter aircraft at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan, it missed an easy way to achieve some equity in the distribution of defense industry dollars in the states. Trump could direct the Pentagon to reverse that decision.

The Navy's plans for a new "large unmanned surface vessel" calls for a ship

that could be built at a Great Lakes facility; near Detroit makes sense, if only out of fairness to a state that has been largely ignored in the Trump military rebuild. Given the likely long-term need for many of these ships, it's not far-future, a new yard could be planned and grown along with the program. It pains this Buckeye to say so, but somewhere along the Michigan coast next door to Ohio would be equitable.

A focus on Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin need not be limited to the Defense Department. Recently, Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., pushed successfully for the planned relocation of the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management to Grand Junction, Colo., in a brilliant move to bring bureaucrats closer to the citizens they regulate and whom they are supposed to protect. Large parts of the Environmental Protection Agency to Flint, Mich., or nearby locations would drive home the same message.

Trump has the chance to drain the swamp while making government agencies much more attuned to the people in flyover country. But he must act soon.

It is, in reality, the Navy's utter failure to deliver even a bare-bones plan to realize the president's promise of a 355-ship Navy that ought to rattle the commander in chief. A new chief of naval operations will arrive soon. The president ought to have waiting on his desk copies of the speeches in which he promised, and then promised again, a 355-ship Navy, along with the slogan famously used by Winston Churchill scrawled with the black sharpie that Trump likes to use: "Action this day!"

Washington Post contributing columnist Hugh Hewitt hosts a nationally syndicated radio show and is the author of "Fourth Way: The Conservative Playbook for a Lasting GOP Majority."

## Iraq, Kuwait are beginning a beautiful friendship

For Kuwait, Iraq is a giant market and investment opportunity at its doorstep. It is also an escape from other tensions in the Arabian Peninsula.

since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. The dictator had encouraged Iraqis to regard the little emirate much as mainland Chinese view Taiwan: a rogue province that must one day return to the motherland. These days, Iraqi leaders say bygones should be bygones.

Last month, Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi declared that "the future prospects are far greater than the fears and obstacles between the two countries." Earlier in the summer, Kuwait's Emir visited Baghdad, his first solo trip there; President Barham Salih of Iraq traveled to Kuwait City for the first time last winter.

This diplomatic confidence-building has great strategic purpose for Baghdad. Iraq, caught between two regional crises — the fallout between the U.S. and Iran in the Gulf, and the deepening animosity between Saudi Arabia and the Tehran regime — recognizes Kuwait as a relatively safe harbor. The emirate maintains cordial relationships with all three of those antagonists, allowing it to deepen economic ties with Iraq without arousing suspicion or animosity.

For Kuwait, Iraq is a giant market and investment opportunity at its doorstep. It is also an escape from other tensions in the Arabian Peninsula. It is wary of the

growing ambitions of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf Cooperation Council, and uncomfortable with the embargo imposed by those countries (along with Bahrain and Egypt) on Qatar. Iraq is one of the few places in the neighborhood where Kuwait can stretch its foreign policy legs.

This overlap of interests is already bearing fruit. Iraq and Kuwait are planning to jointly develop oilfields, one of them in the Safwan area. It's an opportunity to set aside decades-old disputes over the ownership of the land, and what lies beneath. (Remember that Saddam, in building justification for the 1990 occupation, claimed Kuwait was stealing Iraqi oil.) Kuwaitis have also been helping the development of gas fields in southern Iraq. For Baghdad, those projects hold out the possibility of developing a hydrocarbons strategy independent from Iranian, Saudi and U.S. interests.

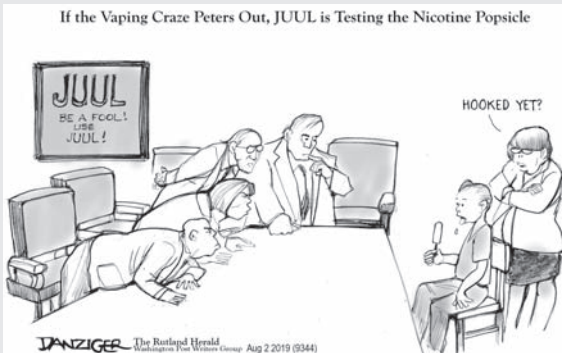
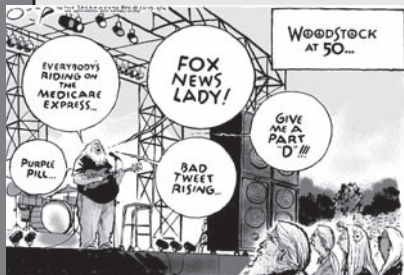
Beyond oil, Kuwait has promised to invest heavily in the reconstruction of Iraqi cities devastated in the war against Islamic State. There are also plans to set up special economic zones on the border, allowing each side freer access to the other's markets; last month, the commerce ministers of both countries visited a potential site for one of these — in Safwan.

It will probably be years before all the remains of the 1990-91 conflict are found; my minder Laith, who fled Iraq after Saddam's fall, will never locate his fallen comrade. But Iraq and Kuwait are burying their differences, and that's good for everyone.

Bobby Ghosh is a columnist and member of the Bloomberg Opinion editorial board. He writes on foreign affairs, with a special focus on the Middle East and the wider Islamic world.

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

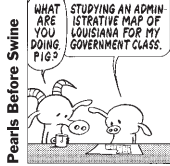




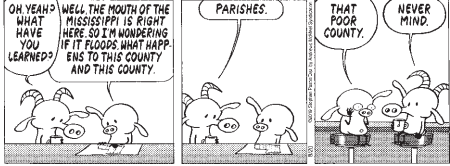
Frazz



Dilbert



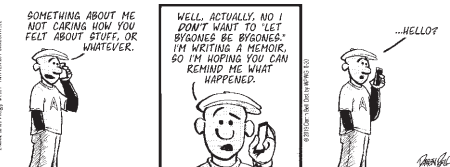
Pearly Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13					14			
15					16					17			
				18				19	20				
21	22	23					24						
25						26	27				28	29	
30						31				32			
33						34				35			
						36				37			
38	39					40	41						
42						43	44				45	46	47
48						49				50			
51						52				53			

## ACROSS

- Group of actors
- Gravy vessel
- "The Bells" author
- Buckeye State
- Capitol of Latvia
- Aachen article
- Hand-held data organizer
- Hill dweller
- Mayor's domain
- Clock sounds
- Mamas' mates
- Georgia or Cal
- Coup d'
- Taints
- "Yuck!"
- Director Forman
- Rage
- Did again
- Crystal gazer
- Croupier's tool
- Confused
- France's longest river
- Lake of Lombardy
- Coffee vessel
- Overly flattering newspaper article
- Court divider
- Starting
- Autos
- Gore and Franken

- Colonial seamstress
- "Go no further!"

## DOWN

- Officer
- "Caught ya!"
- Part of RSVP
- Male feline
- Telly watcher
- Unctuous
- Past
- Ragged clothes
- Fruit-filled pastries
- Sty cry
- Tolkien creatures
- Math ratios
- Hosp. section
- Equal
- Suit to —
- Tracks left by pets
- Walked (on)
- Refer to
- Flamenco cheer
- Sloth's home
- Antitoxins
- Match the card, in golf
- Hearing thing
- Unemotional types
- Pump up the volume
- Moth variety
- Hurler Hersher
- Fiscal execs
- Does in, mob-style
- GI entertainers
- "Dig in!"
- Magnon
- Mentalist's gift

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	G	R	A	T	E	D	S	W	A	M
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	T	A	P
H	I	P	S	T	E	R	S	E	L	S
		W	O	N	C	A	R	T	E	D
R	I	T	E	S	F	I	L	E		
I	T	O	R	H	I	P	B	O	O	T
V	C	R	T	O	O	L	S	P	I	E
		H	I	P	B	O	N	E	C	E
		A	S	K	A	L	E	D	G	E
S	T	R	I	P	S	E	E	L		
I	R	A	N	H	I	P	F	L	A	S
D	A	F	T	O	N	E	T	O	O	N
E	M	T	S	T	A	E		S	L	O

## CRYPTOQUIP

M UBNRQ ICVJYMPRH PBJ  
VCIBFFCPQ JOYJ JYMRBV JB  
YPHBPC CRZC. OC QMQP'J  
ZNMJ FC UCRR.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BREAKFAST CEREAL CONTAINING CHUNKS SHAPED LIKE SMALL SINGLE-MASTED SAILBOATS: FRUIT SLOOPS.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals Y




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Automotive 140

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## Pro football

### NFL preseason

East					
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
New England	2	0	0	1.000	53 20
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	51 30
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	48 43
N.Y. Jets	1	0	0	.500	44 41
South					
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	44 32
Houston	1	1	0	.500	56 51
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	50 53
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	34 45
North					
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	47 35
Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	55 13
Cleveland	2	0	0	1.000	51 28
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	40 51
West					
Oakland	2	0	0	1.000	47 29
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	45 34
Denver	1	1	0	.500	28 32
L.A. Chargers	0	2	0	.000	30 36
NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
East					
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	1.000	63 25
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	44 24
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	54 34
Washington	0	2	0	.000	23 53
South					
Carolina	1	1	0	.500	37 40
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	.500	44 24
Atlanta	1	0	0	1.000	50 41
Minnesota	0	3	0	.000	40 70
West					
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	17 9
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	41 19
Arizona	1	0	0	1.000	43 46
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	18 28
Sunday's games					
New Orleans 19, L.A. Chargers 17					
Minnesota 25, Seattle 19					
Monday's game					
San Francisco at Cincinnati					
Washington at Atlanta					
Baltimore at Philadelphia					
San Francisco at Oakland					
Canada					
Jacksonville at Miami					
Buffalo at Tampa Bay					
Cleveland at Detroit					
Saturday's games					
Arizona at Minnesota					
Dallas at Dallas					
Chicago at Indianapolis					
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets					
San Francisco at Kansas City					
Denver at L.A. Rams					
Seattle at L.A. Rams					
Pittsburgh at Tennessee					

## Tennis

### Western & Southern Open

Atlanta	0	3	0	.000	47	70
	North					
Minnesota	2	0	0	1.000	59	44
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	41	52
Chicago	0	2	0	.000	26	55
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	26	61
	West					
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	17	9
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	41	39
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	43	46
L.A. Rams	0	2	0	.000	13	28
Sunday's games						
New Orleans 19, L.A. Chargers 17						
Minnesota 25, Seattle 19						
Monday's game						
San Francisco at Denver						

## Pro soccer

### MLS

**Friday's games**  
Cleveland at Tampa Bay  
Buffalo at Detroit

**Saturday's games**  
Arizona at Minnesota  
Houston at Dallas  
Chicago at Indianapolis  
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets  
San Francisco at Kansas City  
Denver at L.A. Rams  
Seattle at L.A. Chargers

**Sunday, Aug. 25**  
Pittsburgh at Tennessee



## NFL/HIGH SCHOOL

## Deep offense lifts Vikings

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The pressure is on Minnesota's offense to improve, and a more productive passing attack will depend partially on a diversified group of targets for Kirk Cousins.

Some of that depth was on display Sunday night against Seattle.

Rookie tight end Irv Smith Jr. and backup wide receiver Brandon Zylstra each had touchdown receptions, and the Vikings used a versatile offense to beat the Seahawks 25-19 in a preseason matchup.

"I honestly thought it was a really positive night," said Cousins, who went 6-for-8 for 68 yards. "It's a small sample size. It's the preseason. You try not to read too much into it, but I came away feeling good about the first two drives and also really the rest of the offense the rest of the way."

Second-string quarterback Sean Mannion took over for the third possession, which ended in an interception that safety DeShawn Sheard returned 88 yards for a score. Mannion bounced back by finding Smith with a short throw into the end zone just before halftime.

The Vikings, who underwent an offseason scheme change with offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski and offensive adviser Gary Kubiak after an underwhelming first year with Cousins at the helm, had 409 total yards.

"We have so many different



BRUCE KLUCKHOFF/AP

**Vikings tight end Irv Smith, left, runs from Seahawks outside linebacker Austin Calitro after making a reception Sunday in Minneapolis. Smith had one touchdown in Minnesota's 25-19 win.**

weapons, and coach Stefanski and coach Kubiak, they want to get us all involved," said Smith, a second-round draft pick from Alabama. "So they did a great job of that."

Mannion went 11-for-14 for 88 yards. Kyle Slotter, who finished 11-for-13 for 116 yards, delivered the touchdown pass to Zylstra in the third quarter and directed another scoring drive capped by fullback Khari Blasingame's 1-yard plunge.

Seattle's pass rush was strong in the first half, but Minnesota's much-scrutinized offensive line again avoided allowing a sack. Barkevious Mingo pressured Mannion as he threw before Chad Beebe was expecting the ball after

a turn on a hitch route, prompting Sheard's pick-six. Cousins and rookie center Garrett Bradbury shared a botched under-center snap resulting in a fumble the Vikings recovered.

The first team took two turns for the Seahawks, too, and Russell Wilson went 6-for-9 for 82 yards after sitting out the preseason opener. He had a 33-yard completion to Jaron Brown, who has a starting wide receiver spot for now following the retirement of Doug Baldwin. D.K. Metcalf, the second-round draft pick from Mississippi, did not play, and coach Pete Carroll later said he'll need minor knee surgery. Brown's catch set up the first of four field goals by Jason Myers.



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

**All Shimasaki, right, gives Guam High football an edge on special teams. The soccer player is one of three girls joining the Panthers this year. Shimasaki scored 14 goals for the soccer team last year.**

## Panthers' success could hinge on line

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Ali Shimasaki finished the second of her three practice field goals and now moved the kicking block back to the 35-yard line.

The Guam High senior, 17, had played soccer her entire life, from virtually when she was able to walk. She scored a team-high 14 goals to power Guam's girls soccer team to fourth place in the island playoffs last May.

But now, there she was in Panthers purple and gold, shoulder pads and helmet, lining up for a 45-yard practice field goal, during a three-day visit to Yokota for a combine featuring schools from Okinawa, Japan and Guam.

End over end the ball went, through the uprights, with room to spare, to the cheers of her teammates and coaches.

"Impressive," Panthers ninth-year coach Jacob Dowdell said. "I wanted to try something new this year," said Shimasaki, who has lived on Guam most of her life. "If I was going to do another sport, I wanted to try football."

Shimasaki is one of three girls suiting up for the rebuilding Panthers, the other two being sophomore Alina Gerodias and freshman Kayla Gierlings, both receivers. And the boys on the team have made the girls feel most welcome, Shimasaki said.

"They treat me like one of them," Shimasaki said. "This team is definitely like my second family. We're very accepting."

Third-year Panthers quarterback Traxon Jacobs said he believes the arrangement is good for all concerned.

"It's a good thing for the team and for her," he said. "It keeps her leg in good shape for soccer. And we respect her. We treat her as one of the team."

While the Panthers' special teams appear to be in good hands — and Shimasaki's strong right leg — the question looms: Just how far can that leg take a Pan-



**Guam High quarterback Traxon Jacobs will be in his third year in the shotgun.**

thers team that either graduated or transferred all but four of its players from a season ago?

With Jacobs back under center, and with experienced back Julius Gaduang and receivers Jalen Thach and Ruben Ramirez, the Panthers appear set in the skills department.

"Traxon will be one of the top quarterbacks in the Pacific," Dowdell said. "Down on Guam, he'll set the pace for everyone down there."

It's the line, Dowdell said, that's in question. No question, the Panthers have size in the interior, averaging 225 pounds with a couple of 265-poundsers in uniform. "It's the biggest line we've had" since winning the island title in 2010. "But they're young. They have some learning and growing to do."

The early season schedule doesn't bode well for the Panthers, who face perennial island champion Father Duenas and George Washington in back-to-back weeks, the second and third weeks of the season.

"We get a chance to test ourselves at the beginning of the season," Dowdell said. "We're going to play them anyway. Why not right away?"

The Panthers open their campaign at home on Saturday against Tiyan at 7 p.m.

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Twitter @DaveOrnauer

## Backup QB Hill rallies Saints

By JOE REEY  
Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — Tayson Hill has been the quintessential all-purpose player the past two seasons. On Sunday, he showed again what makes him such a valuable weapon for the New Orleans Saints.

Hill had 191 yards of offense and directed three second-half scoring drives to help the Saints rally for a 19-17 preseason victory over the Los Angeles Chargers.

In a game where Philip Rivers and Drew Brees were sideline observers, Hill supplied most of the quarterback highlights. He was 11-for-15 for 136 yards and a pair of touchdowns and ran for 55 yards.

With New Orleans trailing 17-3 at halftime, Hill felt the pressure was on him to produce.

"I felt like we needed some energy. And the thing I reiterated in the huddle was we're going to have a chance to win this football game," Hill said. "I know it's a preseason game, but this is what it's all about, and if we came here to not win, then we're wrong. So that was the objective."

Hill gave a 27-yard TD pass to Austin Gary with 3:10 remaining in the third quarter to bring the



KELVIN KUBO/AP

**Saints quarterback Tayson Hill threw a pair of touchdowns and ran for 55 yards in New Orleans' 19-17 win over the Chargers on Sunday in Carson, Calif.**

Saints 1-1 to 10-17.

Hill then directed an 11-play, 69-yard drive midway through the fourth quarter that culminated in a 1-yard TD pass to Devine Ozigbo. The Saints went for 2, but Hill was sacked by Anthony Lanier II.

Following a Chargers punt,

Hill drove the Saints into field goal range, where Will Lutz made a 28-yarder with 1:08 remaining.

"For three quarters I thought it was pretty complementary football. Then Tayson Hill took it over and they completely outplayed us," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said.

Hill has lined up at receiver, running back and tight end for the Saints since they signed him in 2017, but coach Sean Payton has been impressed with how Hill has looked at his natural position during training camp.

"I think he's had a good camp and has progressed," Payton said. "Some of the things he did were scrambles, but he's pretty good when he's running."

Troymaine Pope returned a punt 81 yards and Cardale Jones was 10-for-14 for 111 yards and a touchdown for the Chargers (0-2).

Tyrod Taylor and Teddy Bridgewater were the starting quarterbacks but were not effective.

Bridgewater played the entire first half — going 5-for-12 for 40 yards — despite being ill since Friday.

"Man, it was a poor game," Bridgewater said. "Today I just didn't give those guys the energy they deserve."

## SPORTS BRIEFS/GOLF

## Briefly

## Raiders GM tells Brown: It's time 'to be all-in or all out'

Associated Press

Oakland Raiders general manager Mike Mayock told disgruntled receiver Antonio Brown it's time to decide whether he's "all-in or all out" about playing this season after losing a fight with the NFL and NFLPA over his helmet.

Mayock issued a statement to reporters that the Raiders released in a video on Twitter expressing his frustration Brown didn't participate in practice Sunday despite being healed from the frostbitten feet that have sidelined him for most of training camp.

"You all know that A.B. is not here today. So here's the bottom line. He's upset about the helmet issue. We have supported that. We appreciate that," Mayock said. "But at this point, we've pretty much exhausted all avenues of relief. So from our perspective, it's time for him to be all-in or all out. So we're hoping he's back soon. We've got 89 guys busting their tails. We are really excited about where this franchise is going and we hope A.B. is going to be a big part of it starting Week 1 against Denver. End of story. No questions."

Brown has been upset that the NFL and NFLPA won't allow him to use the same Schutt Air Advantage that he has used throughout his career. Brown filed a grievance over the issue that he lost on Aug. 12 and then set out to find a newer version of the helmet that was less than 10 years old to get approved.

## Veteran sportscaster Whitaker dies at 95

Jack Whitaker, who announced the first Super Bowl for CBS Sports among other milestone events during a decades-long career, has died at 95.

The longtime broadcaster died in his sleep Sunday in Devon, Pa., according to CBS News.

Whitaker spent more than two decades working for CBS Sports, where his coverage included football, golf, boxing, soccer, baseball and horse racing. He worked on each of the first 21 Super Bowls, as well as the four PGA majors

and Triple Crown races.

Following his lengthy stint with CBS, Whitaker went to ABC Sports, where he covered multiple Olympic Games and also worked as a sports reporter for a number of ABC News programs.

He retired from broadcasting more than a decade ago and entered the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 2012.

## Power wins shortened Pocono IndyCar race

LONG POND, Pa. — Will Power won the shortened race Sunday at Pocono Raceway, the 13th straight season he's won an IndyCar race. The race was called with 72 laps left because of lightning and severe weather in the area.

Lightning strikes at Pocono after a rain-shortened NASCAR race killed one fan in 2012.

Power was in the right position to win a race marred by yet another horrific wreck that collected five drivers on the first lap and sent Chip Ganassi Racing driver Felix Rosenqvist to the hospital.

IndyCar at Pocono has turned into perhaps the scariest race day in motor sports, 500 miles of danger for drivers on the 2½-mile track and white knuckles and clasped hands for anyone watching the event.

Justin Wilson died in 2015 from a head injury after being struck by debris from another car. Robert Wickens was paralyzed in an early-lap accident last year. His car shot into a fence, leaving the promising IndyCar driver paralyzed from the waist down.

## Ex-Cavs coach Blatt diagnosed with MS

PIRAEUS, Greece — Former Cleveland Cavaliers coach David Blatt has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

In a statement posted Monday on the website of Greek club Olympiakos, Blatt said he was diagnosed with the condition, which attacks the central nervous system, "a few months ago" and has experienced fatigue, weakness in his legs and balance problems.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Justin Thomas celebrates his birdie putt Sunday on the 18th green to clinch his win in the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. He finished under 25.

Justin time: Thomas holds on  
Golfer ends 12-month winless streak with BMW Championship title

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

MEDINAH, Ill. — Staked to a six-shot lead, Justin Thomas spent more time Sunday worrying about what could go wrong than ending 12 months without winning.

And right when it started to go wrong, Thomas delivered his biggest shots in the BMW Championship.

In a span of three holes around the turn at Medinah, his six-shot lead shrunk to two. Thomas answered with two clutch wedge shots, two big putts and sailed to a 4-under 68 to secure a three-shot victory over Patrick Cantlay, who gave him a battle to the end with a 65.

"Patrick played unbelievably, put a lot of heat on me," Thomas said. "In the end, it could have been good for me. It kept me focused, kept my head down. ... I was really nervous going into today. I remembered that it's really hard to win a golf tournament, and I'm glad that I was able

to do so."

The timing was ideal.

His first victory since the World Golf Championship at Firestone last year moved him to the top of the FedEx Cup going into the Tour Championship, where he will start the tournament at 10-under par with a two-shot lead under the new scoring format as the final 30 players chase a \$15 million first prize.

"I can certainly say I never slept on a Wednesday lead," Thomas said.

Cantlay, who made four straight birdies around the turn, secured the No. 2 position and will start at 8 under. Brooks Koepka will be 7 under, a staggered start all the way down to even par for the final five players.

That includes Lucas Glover, who went bogey-double bogey until finishing with a two-putt par from 40 feet to secure his first trip to the Tour Championship in 10 years.

It will not include Masters champion Tiger Woods, the defending champion.

Woods was a long shot going into the final round to crack the top 30, and he closed with a 72. East Lake was his first victory in five years, capping his return from four back surgeries, a special moment replaced by his Masters victory.

"It's disappointing," Woods said. "Last year culminated in a pretty special moment for me and would have been nice to go back there."

Only seven players dating to 1928 had ever lost a six-shot lead on the PGA Tour. Thomas didn't want to be the next.

That's why he shut off his phone on his way to the course. It seemed everyone but him had already declared him the winner, and he found no refuge in the locker room.

"Guys giving me advice in the locker room how to finish off a tournament," Thomas said. "I was like, 'I've done this a couple times guys but, thank you.' That's what I was saying on the way over here. It's a lot of the outside noise."

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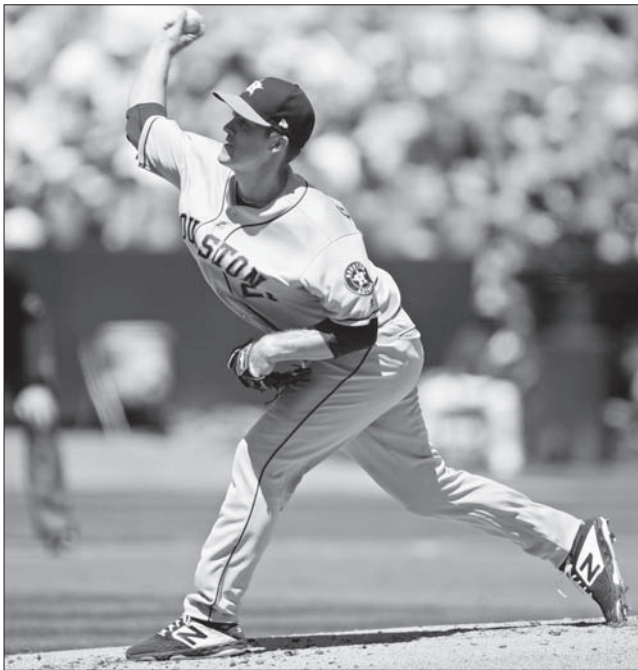
NEX

# NHL SCOREBOARD

American League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
New York	83	43	.659	99%	St. Louis	79	46	.632	79%	Los Angeles	62	64	.492	17½	Los Angeles	68	47	.591	2½	
Texas	77	59	.564	9%	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	
Boston	67	59	.532	16%	Seattle	52	73	.416	27	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Toronto	52	75	.409	31½	Los Angeles	64	60	.516	9	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Minnesota	48	85	.362	43	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
Minnesota	74	51	.592	2½	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
Kansas City	44	80	.352	32	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Kansas City	44	80	.352	32	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	
Detroit	44	80	.352	32	Los Angeles	64	60	.516	9	Los Angeles	64	60	.516	9	Los Angeles	64	60	.516	9	
West Division										West Division										
Houston	79	46	.632	79%	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	San Diego	49	76	.367	27½	
Los Angeles	62	64	.492	17½	Los Angeles	62	64	.492	17½	Los Angeles	62	64	.492	17½	Los Angeles	62	64	.492	17½	
San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	San Francisco	63	62	.500	18½	
Seattle	52	73	.416	27	Seattle	52	73	.416	27	Seattle	52	73	.416	27	Seattle	52	73	.416	27	
National League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	
West Division										West Division										
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
National League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	
West Division										West Division										
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
National League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	
West Division										West Division										
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
National League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	
West Division										West Division										
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
National League										National League										
East Division					West Division					East Division					West Division					
W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	
Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	Miami	45	79	.366	27½	
Central Division										Central Division										
St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	St. Louis	65	57	.533	—	
Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	Chicago	68	47	.591	2½	
San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	San Francisco	58	65	.472	14½	
Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	Pittsburgh	52	73	.416	27	
West Division										West Division										
Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	Atlanta	67	56	.545	5½	
Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	Washington	64	60	.516	9	
Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.472	14½	Philadelphia	58	65	.		



## MLB



BEN MARGOT/AP

Houston Astros pitcher Zack Greinke allowed four hits and three walks with six strikeouts in a 4-1 win at Oakland on Sunday, ending the Astros' five-game slump.

## Greinke wins 200th game, Astros end five-game slump

By JANIE McCauley  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After earning his 200th win, Zack Greinke hopes he's on his way to even bigger achievements with the Houston Astros this season.

Greinke reached the milestone with seven smooth innings Sunday, pitching the first-place Astros past the Oakland Athletics 4-1 to avoid a four-game sweep.

Alex Bregman had a three-run homer among his four hits to back Greinke, who won his third straight start since joining Houston from the Arizona Diamondbacks at the July 31 trade deadline to make the Astros a World Series favorite.

"Wins are good. You look back at the end of the year and the team wins a lot and you win a lot, you can't ask for much more than that," Greinke said. "I wouldn't say there's many pitchers that would say that that's the No. 1 most important stat for them, but if you and the team are winning, it's the most important. It doesn't necessarily say you're pitching the best, but it's the most important."

Greinke (13-4) went nine up, nine down on 25 pitches to start the game before giving up Marcus Semien's 21st homer — two days after Semien doubled to break up a perfect game bid by Justin Verlander.

Greinke allowed four hits with three walks and six strikeouts to help the Astros stop a five-game losing streak. He became the 115th pitcher in major league history to reach 200 career wins, and the second in Houston's rotation along with Verlander.

"He can throw anything in any count. His range

**"You look back at the end of the year and the team wins a lot and you win a lot, you can't ask for much more than that."**

**Zach Greinke**

Astros pitcher, on winning his 200th game

is anything from like 66 to 92 mph, which is incredible," A's starter Brett Anderson said. "He's a Hall of Famer in my book."

Yuli Gurriel added an RBI double in the sixth for undermanned Houston, which had a two-man bench but snapped Oakland's four-game winning streak. The Astros went back ahead of the A's by 7½ games in the AL West race.

Anderson (10-9) exited in the sixth because of a blister on his pitching hand.

"I don't think it'll be a problem for his next start," manager Bob Melvin said.

The left-hander allowed four runs on seven hits in five innings, struck out three and walked four in losing his second straight start and fourth in five.

Oakland saw its home winning streak end at six games, matching the club's season high. One more win will clinch a winning record at the Coliseum for a third consecutive season.

Fill-in right fielder Chad Pinder threw out Jose Altuve at home plate in the first after he reached on a two-base throwing error by Anderson.

### Roundup

# Quintana, Cubs crush Pirates in Williamsport

Associated Press

**WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.**— Jose Quintana pitched seven crisp innings, Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer and the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-1 on Sunday night in the MLB Little League Classic.

Nicholas Castellanos and Jason Heyward also connected as Chicago earned its second straight win since consecutive heartbreaking losses to the Phillies and Pirates.

The Cubs took two of three in the unusual weekend set and remain in a virtual tie with St. Louis for the top spot in the NL Central.

Starling Marte had three hits for Pittsburgh, including his 21st homer in the ninth. Mitch Keller (1-2) allowed six runs in 4⅓ innings.

With grinning Little Leaguers dressed in their uniforms filling the stands at BB&T Ballpark, Quintana (11-7) allowed five hits and walked none. The left-hander improved to 7-0 in nine starts since his last loss June 22.

**Braves 5, Dodgers 3:** With All-Star outfielder Ronald Acuna Jr. benched for not hustling, Rafael Ortega stepped up with a sixth-inning grand slam to lift host Atlanta over Los Angeles.

Acuna was pulled before the fifth after failing to run out a drive off the right field wall in the third. The ball bounced off the wall for a long single. The 21-year-old Acuna likely would have had an easy double if he had hustled from home plate.

Braves manager Brian Snitker followed Acuna into the tunnel for an apparent conversation during the fourth inning before Adam Duvall entered the game in left field in the fifth, with Ortega moving from left to center.

**Mets 11, Royals 5:** Pete Alonso hit his 40th home run to break the National League rookie record, capping a late outburst by New York in a win at Kansas City. Michael Conforto launched a long homer in the first inning and drove in four runs. Amed Rosario put the Mets ahead 6-4 with a two-run single in the seventh, and Alonso went deep in the ninth. He snapped a tie with Cody Bellinger, who hit 39 home runs for the Dodgers in 2017 on the way to winning Rookie of the Year honors.

**Indians 8, Yankees 4:** Mike Clevinger struck out 11 in five shutout innings to win his seventh straight decision, Mike Freeman

had three extra-base hits and Cleveland won at New York for a four-game split between AL pennant contenders.

Freeman hit a three-run homer and a pair of doubles. Oscar Mercado homered and drove in three runs, and Francisco Lindor also connected for the Indians.

**Red Sox 13, Orioles 7:** Rafael Devers went 4-for-5 with a homer, two doubles and four RBIs as host Boston rallied from an early six-run deficit to complete a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

**Cardinals 5, Reds 4:** Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer, Tommy Edman added a solo shot among his three hits and St. Louis won at Cincinnati to split their four-game series.

**Rays 5, Tigers 4:** Ji-Man Choi's two-run single in the bottom of the ninth completed a rally from a late three-run deficit, and host Tampa Bay kept itself in the AL's second wild-card spot and avoided a series loss to Detroit.

**Nationals 16, Brewers 8:** Juan Soto hit two of Washington's team record-tying eighth homers in a 16-8 rout of visiting Milwaukee.

**Twins 6, Rangers 3:** Jorge Polanco cleared the bases with a tiebreaking triple in the eighth inning, helping visiting Minnesota to its first-ever four-game sweep of Texas.

**Mariners 7, Blue Jays 0:** Yusei Kikuchi pitched his first shutout in the majors, throwing a two-hitter that led Seattle to a win at Toronto. Kikuchi (5-8) struck out eight, walked one and retired the final 14 batters in his first win since beating Baltimore on June 23. It was his 26th start for the Mariners.

**Padres 3, Phillies 2:** Austin Hedges had four hits, including a tiebreaking homer in the seventh, and Joey Lucchesi pitched six strong innings to lead San Diego to a win at Philadelphia.

**Rockies 7, Marlins 6 (10):** Garrett Hampson hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 10th inning, and host Colorado rallied to complete a three-game sweep of Miami.

**Diamondbacks 6, Giants 1:** Wilmer Flores and David Peralta homered, Merrill Kelly held San Francisco to one run in 5½ innings, and host Arizona avoided a four-game sweep.

**Angels 9, White Sox 2:** Shohei Ohtani, Kole Calhoun, Matt Thaiss and Anthony Rendon all homered to lead host Los Angeles over Chicago.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## SEC preview

# Georgia leads the pack behind Alabama

BY JOHN ZENOR  
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Alabama is still king in the Southeastern Conference, if not nationally.

Nothing that happened in the national championship game changed that, beyond serving as a heartening reminder that Nick Saban's Crimson Tide isn't in fact invulnerable.

The pursuit continues in the SEC, with Georgia again leading the chase pack after coming ever so close the past two seasons — in league and national championship games.

So Tide players are motivated by the mantra "never be satisfied." For Georgia, the catchphrase is "do more." Meanwhile, both can eye each other throughout the regular season just in case they meet in the SEC title game.

An Alabama team that won every regular-season game by at least 22 points had to rally to beat the Bulldogs in Atlanta with the SEC title on the line before ultimately getting runned 44-16 by Clemson in the national championship game.

"Our mantra now for our guys that we have as a leadership group is to never be satisfied," said



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS BANNER-HERALD/AP

**Quarterback Jake Fromm and Georgia again look to be Alabama's biggest competitor in the SEC.**

Alabama quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, last season's runner-up for the Heisman Trophy. "Early in the season, we'd been beating teams by a lot. Of course you're going to get satisfied, because you feel invincible as a team. But

never being satisfied is the way to go for us."

Georgia safety J.R. Reed says the Bulldogs can't focus on a SEC title game rematch with the Tide.

"We can't look ahead way down the line, because we might not

make it there if we look way down there," Reed said.

Florida, LSU and Texas A&M are ready to pounce if either favorite falters. All three, like Georgia and Alabama, have high hopes and veteran quarterbacks.

## Top players

**Derrick Brown, DT, Auburn:** Opted to return for his senior season though he's a highly rated NFL prospect.

**Grant Delpit, DB, LSU:** A unanimous All-American and a finalist for the Nagurski Award. Delpit led the league with five interceptions but also had 74 tackles and five sacks.

**Jake Fromm, QB, Georgia:** One of the nation's most efficient passers, ranking fifth last season. Has 54 touchdown passes against just 13 interceptions in two seasons.

**C.J. Henderson, CB, Florida:** Has six interceptions over the past two seasons and returned two for touchdowns in 2017.

**Jerry Jeudy, WR, Alabama:** Tagovailoa's favorite target won the Biletnikoff Award last season and is a big-time deep threat.

**Tagovailoa, QB, Alabama:** He set team passing records with 43 TDs and 3,966 yards last season.

**Andrew Thomas, LT, Georgia:** A second-team AP All-American last season, he's one of the nation's better offensive linemen. Helps protect Fromm and pave the way for a running game led by D'Andre Swift.

# Trouble galore: Gamecocks may have toughest schedule

BY STEVE MEGARGEY  
Associated Press

South Carolina has the type of brutal schedule that could help the Gamecocks be a better team that winds up with a worse record than last year.

The Gamecocks host both of the participants in last year's College Football Playoff championship game: Clemson and Alabama. They also travel to Georgia, the runner-up in the national championship game two years ago.

South Carolina's schedule shapes up as arguably the nation's toughest.

"I'm not worried about the schedule," South Carolina coach Will Muschamp said. "I'm worried about the Gamecocks. That's all. I'm worried about the things that we can control. Again, I think that's why you come to a place like South Carolina or you come to the Southeastern Conference, to play against the best and be in the lime-light every week and have great opportunities every single Saturday."

South Carolina opens the season with a neutral-site game against North Carolina in the debut of Mack Brown's second stint with the Tar Heels. The Gamecocks follow that with a home game against Football Championship Subdivision program Charleston Southern.

Then the Gamecocks host Alabama, visit Missouri and host Kentucky to close September. South Carolina visits Georgia and hosts Florida on consecutive weekends before visiting Tennessee and hosting Vanderbilt. South Carolina ends the season by hosting Appalachian State, visiting Texas A&M and hosting in-state rival Clemson.

South Carolina faces six teams that were ranked 16th or better in the final Associated Press Top 25 last season. That doesn't even include Appalachian State, which has

gone 41-11 over the past four seasons. Other teams have particularly tough schedules, too:

## Auburn

Aug. 31: vs. Oregon at Arlington, Texas. Sept. 7: Tulane. Sept. 14: Kent State. Sept. 21: at Texas A&M. Sept. 28: Mississippi State. Oct. 5: at Florida. Oct. 19: at Arkansas. Oct. 26: at LSU. Nov. 2: Mississippi. Nov. 16: Georgia. Nov. 23: Samford. Nov. 30: Alabama.

**Notes:** Auburn faces four of the top eight teams in last year's season-ending Top 25. The Tigers also travel to Texas A&M and open with a neutral-site game against Oregon. Auburn does get three relatively easy matchups with Tulane, Kent State and FCS program Samford.

## LSU

Aug. 31: Georgia Southern. Sept. 7: at Texas. Sept. 14: Northwestern State. Sept. 21: at Vanderbilt. Oct. 5: Utah State. Oct. 12: Florida. Oct. 19: at Mississippi State. Oct. 26: Auburn. Nov. 9: at Alabama. Nov. 16: at Mississippi. Nov. 23: Arkansas. Nov. 30: Texas A&M.

**Notes:** LSU travels to Sugar Bowl champion Texas to go along with a brutal schedule that features a trip to Alabama and home games with Florida and Texas A&M. LSU does have an FCS foe (Northwestern State), but the Tigers' two Group of Five opponents (Georgia Southern and Utah State) went a combined 21-5 last year.

## Michigan

Aug. 31: Middle Tennessee. Sept. 7: Army. Sept. 21: at Wisconsin. Sept. 28: Rutgers. Oct. 5: Iowa. Oct. 12: at Illinois. Oct. 19: at Penn State. Oct. 26: Notre Dame. Nov. 2: at Maryland. Nov. 16: Michigan State. Nov. 23:



CHUCK BURTON/AP

**South Carolina coach Will Muschamp and his team hosts both of the participants in last year's College Football Playoff championship game: Clemson and Alabama. South Carolina also travels to Georgia, the runner-up in the national championship game two years ago.**

at Indiana. Nov. 30: Ohio State.

**Notes:** The strength of this schedule is its balance. The Wolverines don't face an FCS team. Their two Group of Five opponents (Middle Tennessee and Army) reached bowl games last season. Army ended the year ranked 19th.

## Southern California

Aug. 31: Fresno State. Sept. 7: Stanford. Sept. 14: at Brigham Young. Sept. 20: Utah. Sept. 28: at Washington. Oct. 12: at Notre Dame. Oct. 19: Arizona. Oct. 25: at Colorado. Nov. 2: Oregon. Nov. 9: at Arizona State. Nov. 16: at California. Nov. 23: UCLA.

**Notes:** There's not a breather on this schedule. USC's three nonconference opponents (Fresno State, BYU and Notre Dame) went a combined 31-9 last season. USC's cross-divisional opponents in its Pac-12 schedule include North Powers Oregon, Washington and Stanford.

## Stanford

Aug. 31: Northwestern. Sept. 7: at Southern California. Sept. 14: at Central Florida. Sept. 21: Oregon. Sept. 28: at Oregon State. Oct. 5: Washington. Oct. 17: UCLA. Oct. 26: Arizona. Nov. 9: at Colorado. Nov. 16: at Washington State. Nov. 23: California. Nov. 30: Notre Dame.

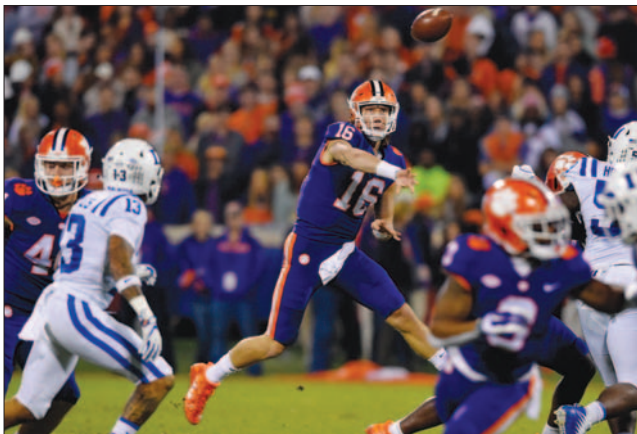
**Notes:** Stanford's three nonconference opponents (Northwestern, UCF and Notre Dame) went a combined 33-7 last season. Stanford faces four teams that finished last season ranked 13th or higher. The Cardinal's September schedule includes trips to USC and UCF plus a home game with Oregon on consecutive weekends.

## Texas A&M

Aug. 29: Texas State. Sept. 7: at Clemson. Sept. 14: Lamar. Sept. 21: Auburn. Sept. 28: vs. Arkansas at Arlington, Texas. Oct. 12: Alabama. Oct. 19: at Mississippi. Oct. 26: Mississippi State. Nov. 2: Texas-San Antonio. Nov. 16: South Carolina. Nov. 23: at Georgia. Nov. 30: at LSU.

**Notes:** Texas A&M faces four of the top eight teams from the season-ending AP poll. The Aggies play three of those games on the road, including visits to Georgia and LSU the last two weeks of the season. This schedule has plenty of heavyweights but also includes FCS program Lamar plus Texas State and UTSA.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence throws a pass under pressure against Duke last year in Clemson, S.C. Clemson won its second national title in three seasons behind freshman Lawrence to claim equal standing with Alabama at the top of the sport.

## Back: Syracuse could pose biggest threat

### FROM BACK PAGE

With Clemson taking its place alongside Alabama as college football's unquestioned top programs, the Tigers had only one close call last year: a 27-23 home win against Syracuse after Lawrence was knocked from the game days after former starter Kelly Bryant decided to transfer. The Tigers won their other seven ACC regular-season games with an average margin of 40.1 points, beat Pittsburgh 42-10 in the league title game then blew out Notre Dame and Alabama to become college football's first 15-0 team since the 1800s.

The strongest challenge could come from Syracuse within the Atlantic Division. The Orange won 10 games in Year 3 under Dino Babers and offer an immediate challenge by hosting the Tigers on Sept. 14. Syracuse is the last ACC team to beat Clemson, that one coming two years ago in the Carrier Dome.

On the other side, the Coastal Division continues to offer a bewildering amount of turnover at the top with a different team winning the title for the past six seasons.

Some other things to know about the upcoming ACC football season:

### The favorites

**Atlantic: Clemson.** The Tigers are 34-2 against league teams dating to the 2015 season with 26 wins by double-digit margins. Enough said.

**Coastal: Virginia.** The only team not to win the Coastal in the past six years is the preseason favorite Cavaliers, who return nine defensive starters from an eight-win team. "We have as good a chance as anyone on our side of the division to win this league," Virginia coach Bronco Men-



MARY SCHWALB/AP

**Boston College running back AJ Dillon will look to improve on last year's 13th-place finish nationally in rushing.**

denhall said. "I don't think it's a stretch to say that. Now, doing that is the next part."

### Top players

**Trevor Lawrence, Clemson:** The quarterback lived up to the hype as a freshman, throwing for 3,280 yards and 30 touchdowns with four interceptions.

**Travis Etienne, Clemson:** The junior ran for 1,658 yards and 24 touchdowns, ranking 15th nationally in rushing (110.5 yards per game).

**AJ Dillon, Boston College:** The junior running back is healthy after playing through an ankle injury last season, though he still ranked 13th nationally (110.8) and joins Etienne in giving the Atlantic Division the potential for some big rushing totals this fall.

**Bryce Perkins, Virginia:** The senior's return is a key reason why Virginia is the Coastal favorite. He threw for 2,680 yards and 25 touchdowns while running for 923 yards and nine more scores.

### New faces

For the second time in four seasons, the league will have four new head coaches with three in the Coastal Division:

**Scott Satterfield, Louisville:** The 46-year-old had a strong run at Appalachian State and now must rebuild a Louisville program that abruptly bottomed out under fired coach Bobby Petrino.

**Geoff Collins, Georgia Tech:** Collins arrives from Temple to replace Paul Johnson, who retired after 11 seasons directing a run-heavy option scheme. Now Collins is trying to reshape the offense while adapting to players recruited to the option scheme.

**Manny Diaz, Miami:** Diaz had left as Miami's defensive coordinator to become Tempe's new coach, only to end up taking over the Hurricanes after Richt's unexpected retirement.

**Mack Brown, North Carolina:** Tar Heels fans would love anything approaching Brown's first stint in Chapel Hill, a decadelong run that included top-10 seasons in 1996 and 1997 before his 16-year run at Texas. He inherits a program that lost 21 of 27 games since November 2016 under former coach Larry Fedora.

### Reversing course

Pressure is high at Florida State and Virginia Tech.

The Seminoles went just 5-7 in their first year under Willie Taggart and failed to earn a bowl trip for the first time since 1981. And the Hokies finished 6-7 in their third year under Justin Fuente, marking their first losing record since 1992.

The good news, at least, is both teams will have plenty of returning experience. FSU has 15 starters back on offense and defense, while Virginia Tech has 16.

# Clemson leads first Top 25 poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

Cross off another milestone from Clemson, college football's newest superpower.

For the first time, the defending national champion Tigers are No. 1 in The Associated Press preseason Top 25. The Tigers won the program's second national title in three seasons behind freshman quarterback Trevor Lawrence in January. Clemson now can claim equal standing with Alabama at the top of the sport.

The Crimson Tide, coming off a 44-16 loss to Clemson in the College Football Playoff championship, is No. 2. Clemson received 52 first-place votes and Alabama received the other 10 from the media. Clemson snaps a record-setting string of three straight years in which Alabama was preseason No. 1.

Georgia, Alabama's Southeastern Conference rival, is No. 3, followed by No. 4 Oklahoma and No. 5 Ohio State.

Clemson's rise under coach Dabo Swinney has been uncommon in college football. The school won the national championship in 1981, but mostly it had resided on a tier well below the traditional national powers. Clemson football was excellent but sometimes messy, but never this.

Last season's championship made Clemson just the 12th school with at least three AP titles since the poll started in 1936.

The Tigers enter 2019 with a 15-game winning streak and eight straight double-digit victory seasons. Since 2015, when they lost the national championship game to Alabama, the Tigers are 55-4.

Nick Saban's Alabama dynasty, with five national titles in a 10-year span, has finally met its match. The Tide is also 55-4 in the last four seasons.

Clemson and Alabama have split the last four national championships, played in the last four playoffs and are poised to make it five straight. This will be the third time since 2016 the Tigers and Tide have started the season Nos. 1 and 2 in the Top 25. Beginning with 2015, when Alabama and Clemson occupied the top two spots in the last four AP polls of the season, the Tide and Tigers have been Nos. 1 and 2 in some order 22 times.

Last year's Clemson team was highlighted by a defensive line that had three starters selected in the first round of the NFL Draft, and a fourth taken in round four.

The Tigers have some rebuilding to do on that side of the ball, but recent history suggests reinforcements are ready. This year Lawrence and the offense will be the headliner. The first freshman quarterback in more than three decades to lead a team to a na-

tional championship, Lawrence will be joined by star receivers Tee Higgins (12 touchdowns) and Justin Ross (nine touchdowns) and game-breaking running back Travis Etienne (8.1 yards per carry).

Alabama returns quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, the Heisman Trophy runner-up, and an array of weapons, too. As a new season starts, college football fans best be prepared for Tide vs. Tigers V.

### Poll points

Clemson is the 23rd team to be preseason No. 1 and the first first-timer since Georgia in 2008. The Tigers will try to become the 12th team to start No. 1 and finish No. 1 since the preseason poll started in 1950. The last to do it was Alabama in 2017. Only two teams have gone wire-to-wire as No. 1: Florida State in 1999 and Southern California in 2004. Alabama has now been No. 2 to start the season nine times, matching Oklahoma for the most in AP poll history. Just as many teams (11) have started No. 2 and won the title as No. 1.

### Consistent Buckeyes

Ohio State is ranked in the preseason for the 31st consecutive season (1989-2019), the third best all-time streak behind only Penn State (34 years, 1968-2002) and Nebraska (33 years, 1970-2002). The Buckeyes have been ranked in 66 of 70 preseason polls, most of any school. The Buckeyes were unranked in 1966-67, 1979 and 1988.

### Tough draw

No. 12 Texas A&M and South Carolina will each play the preseason top three. Only three teams previously has a team had the entire preseason top three on its schedule:

■ In 1968, Northwestern faced Purdue, USC and Notre Dame and went 0-3.

■ In 1972, Minnesota faced Nebraska, Colorado and Ohio State and went 0-3.

■ In 1975, Missouri faced Oklahoma, Alabama and Michigan and went 1-2, beating No. 2 Alabama to open the season.

### Been a while

■ No. 14 Utah has been a regular in the rankings for most of the last five seasons, but the Utes have not been ranked in the preseason since 2011 when they started No. 19.

■ No. 21 Iowa State is making its second appearance in the preseason poll. The Cyclones were No. 20 in 1978.

■ No. 22 Syracuse is in the preseason Top 25 for the first time since 1998, when the Orange were No. 17.



## SPORTS



## Classic beatdown

Quintana leads Chicago's rout of Pirates in Williamsport » **Page 29**

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JEFF CHIU/AP

Clemson players huddle before the national championship game against Alabama on January 7 in Santa Clara, Calif. The Tigers thrashed the Crimson Tide 44-16, and Clemson enters this season as overwhelming favorite in the Atlantic Coast Conference and a serious contender for a third national title in four seasons.

# Roaring back

In the ACC, it's four-time champion Clemson — and everyone else

By **AARON BEARD**  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Reigning national champion Clemson has taken any drama out of the Atlantic Coast Conference race.

At least on paper.  
Dabo Swinney's program has risen to the top of college football, not just the ACC, during a multi-year tear. The Tigers enter the 2019 season with four straight ACC

championships, the kind of domination last seen when Bobby Bowden's Florida State teams romped through the 1990s with at least a share of nine straight titles.

They're an overwhelming favorite yet again as they contend for a third national title in four seasons.

"Truly, we don't carry everything over," Swinney said, adding: "It's always about what's next. You've got to show up every

year with something to prove."

That mission now is becoming the first power conference team to win five consecutive league championship games. The strength will be on an offense led by quarterback Trevor Lawrence — the preseason ACC player of the year and one of 13 Tigers players making up nearly half of the 27-player preseason all-conference team.

**SEE BACK ON PAGE 31**

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■ Defending champ Tigers lead preseason Top 25 poll for first time, **Page 31**

■ SEC season preview, **Page 30**

**Raiders GM to Brown: 'Be all-in or all out'** » **Page 27**

